

Issue 1, January 2024



# EAN Connections

I am honored and delighted to welcome each of you to our inaugural semi-annual Engineering Ambassadors Network newsletter! It is with great joy that we share this platform, marking a significant milestone in our collective journey. As news, our EAN Associate Director Sally Wei retired on December 31st. Sally has been the driving force of our Network and we wish her the very best in her retirement!

We are excited to announce our new Associate Director, Mindy Heggen. Mindy was most recently the director and founder of the Iowa State EA program. Please see the article in this newsletter for more on Mindy and Sally.

## About Engineering Ambassadors Network:

The Engineering Ambassadors Network (EAN) is a professional development organization for university students with a K-12 STEM outreach mission. Our dual commitment is clear - we are shaping diverse leaders today to inspire the engineers of tomorrow. With 39 university chapters spanning across the United States, including Puerto Rico, we are a united force dedicated to making a lasting impact. Since our beginnings in 2010, we have introduced engineering and STEM concepts to over 400,000 K-12 students.

## In this Newsletter:

1. *Fall Regional Workshops*: We share highlights of our fall regional workshops.
2. *Spotlight on an EA Program*: Get to know one of our exceptional Engineering Ambassador programs and their inspiring initiatives to make a real difference.
3. *Quotes from our Ambassadors*: Hear directly from our Engineering Ambassadors as they share their thoughts, experiences, and insights.
4. *Network Impact and Demographics*: Explore our impact and the diverse demographics that make up our vibrant Engineering Ambassadors Network.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

## [Connect and Share.](#)

We encourage you to share this newsletter with your students, administration, management, and colleagues. Let's amplify our reach and continue making a positive impact together!

Visit our website at [[www.engineeringambassadorsnetwork.org](http://www.engineeringambassadorsnetwork.org)] to learn more about us and how you can get involved. Connect with us on social media; we love engaging with our community and hearing your thoughts.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We're excited to have you with us!

Warm regards,

Karen Thole, EAN Director

---

## [EAN Fall Communication Training Workshops](#)

This fall, we held 4 regional communication training workshops. Notably, we introduced west and southeast regionals this year; and we extend our gratitude to UC-Berkeley and UNC-Charlotte for hosting these events.

Our workshops, spanning 2.5 days, provide intensive presentation and communication training. Participants are instructed in a researched presentation creation style proven to enhance audience comprehension and engagement. Over the weekend, students craft a K-12 outreach presentation on an engineering or STEM topic for presentation at a showcase on Sunday morning. The goal is for these presentations to be ready for K-12 school outreach by the workshop's conclusion. Students gain insights into the significance of outreach, learn to create engaging presentations, hone delivery skills, and develop teamwork and leadership abilities.

This year, we successfully trained 156 new engineering ambassadors from 21 universities within the Network. Additionally, 48 mentors (experienced EAs) actively assisted with the training, accompanied by 21 program advisors. The UConn workshop was the largest with a total of 160 attendees, followed by UNC Charlotte with 56 attendees.

### [Northeast Regional: UConn Workshop, September 13-15](#)



**West Regional: UC-Berkley, September 30-October 2**



**Midwest Regional: Iowa State, October 15-17**





**Southeast Regional: UNC Charlotte, November 3-5**



---

## [Engineering Ambassador Program Spotlight](#)



**Institution:** Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

**Location:** Worcester, MA

**Program Advisors:** Jenna Noel-Grinshteyn & James Guaragna

### **Our Program:**

The WPI Engineering Ambassadors program, engages middle and high school students in the exciting opportunities present in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field. They work together as a team to challenge conventional ideas and promote opportunities available to future generations in the engineering field.

### **What is unique about your program?**

At WPI, our visits with middle schools are unique in the sense that we bring a lot of schools to our campus as opposed to traveling out to the school location.

Our visits consist of:

- 10-15 minute presentation about a topic in STEM
- 45 minute hands-on activity that relates to what the students just learned
- 30 minute college readiness presentation (age appropriate)
- 30 minute condensed campus tour
- Optional lunch in our dining hall

This approach gives our student visitors a well rounded “mini college experience” while they are with us at WPI. It also allows our Engineering Ambassadors multiple ways to develop their professional development skills by running any of these particular sessions at any given visit.

### **What is a highlight from your program this Fall?**

We started using some awesome new robots called “Ozobots” which have been a huge hit with our students! Our Engineering Ambassadors created a presentation at the fall conference at UConn and developed the activity for this during our October training on campus. If you have a chance, look them up! They are amazing and students don’t want to stop the activity when we try and wrap up the event.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

We have 46 Engineering Ambassadors on our team this year with a wide range of majors, concentrations, and minors.

### **What is something you're looking forward to in the Spring semester?**

Every February, our office hosts two events during a time when schools in the area have a week long school break. We host "Engineers on the Go" and "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" during that week. EA's play a critical piece in this event, as they host two different hands-on activities and present on the Engineering Design Process to over 100 kids each day!

---

### **What are current Ambassadors saying about being an EA?**



*"The Engineering Ambassadors Program has improved my communication and leadership skills. Not only is the mission beneficial to me, but also inspires so many students. The sparkle in their eyes as they work together to solve problems is priceless and truly shows the impact of our program. "*

**Julia, Engineering Science, Penn State**

*"I love engineering and I wish that I found it much sooner in my life than I did. I didn't figure out I wanted to go into engineering until my senior year of high school. I love being an EA because I get to share the love of engineering to people earlier on in their lives than when I found it."*

**Grace, Electrical & Computer Engineering, WPI**



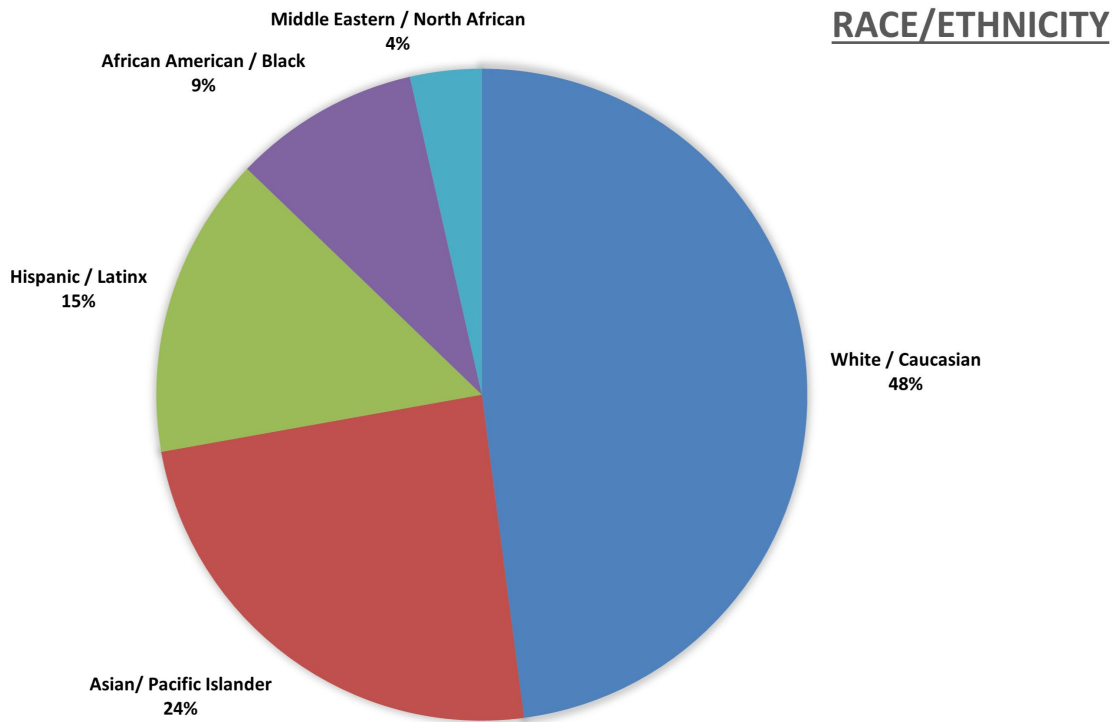


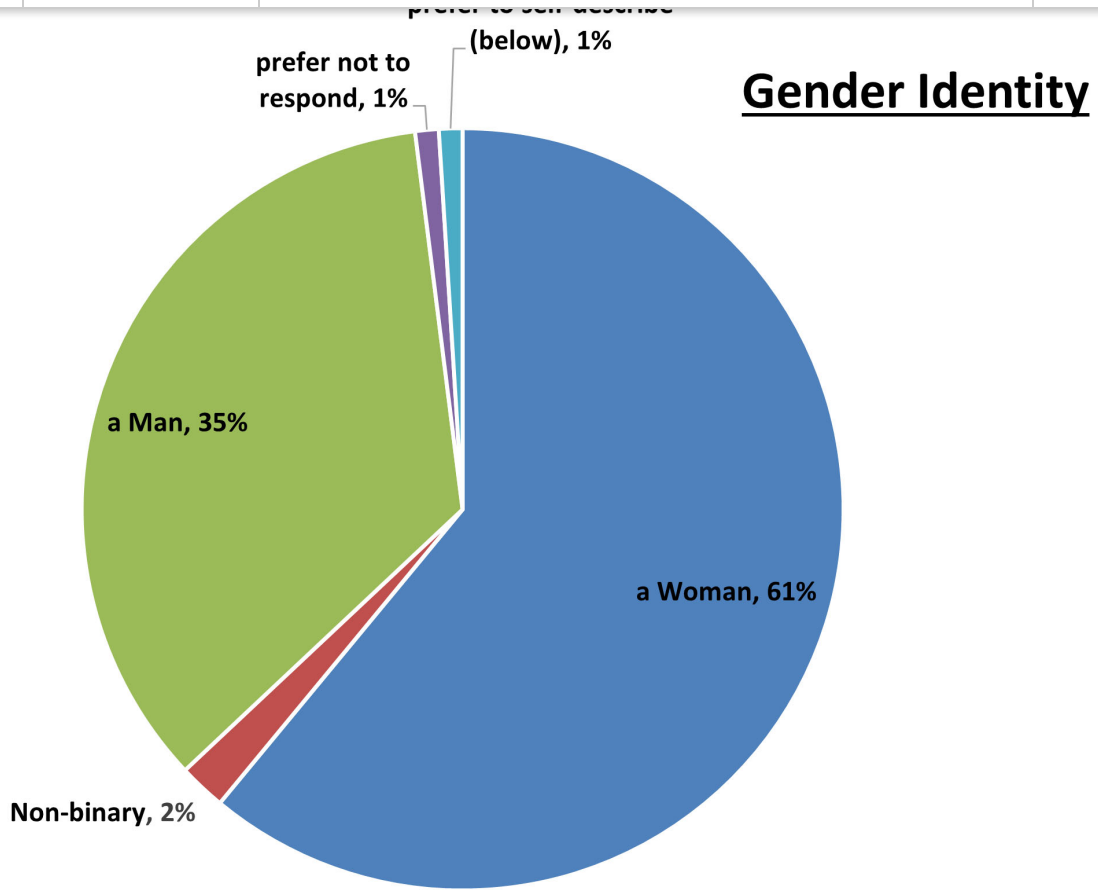


*been the opportunity to mentor and connect with other programs as a LEAD Mentor. Being a part of the UNC Charlotte Conference & Workshop was impactful to see new EA's create outreach presentations and continue the mission of EA at their respective school." **John, Engineering, JMU***

## Network Demographics and Impact

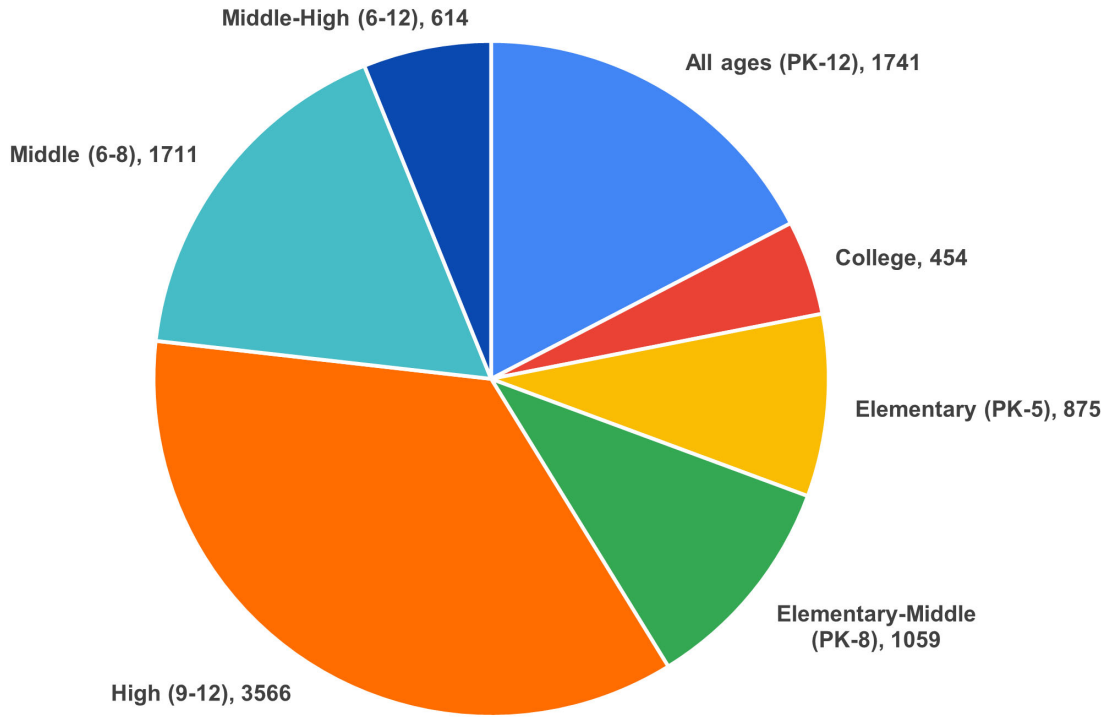
Our ambassadors reside throughout the nation, including Puerto Rico, and represent a diverse range of identities. Only 48% identify as White/Caucasian and only 35% identify as a man.



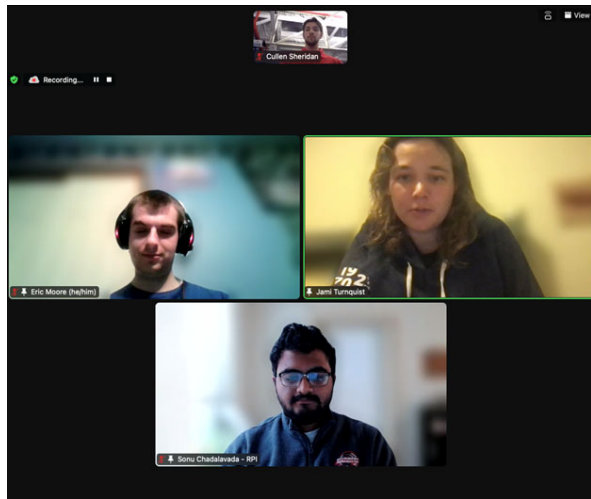


Fall 2023 was a busy semester for all the engineering ambassadors. Twelve universities reported impacting 10,020 students including PK-12 and college students.





### Update from the Alumni Committee



On November 1, the Alumni Committee in conjunction with RPI held an alumni panel virtual event for the Network. Alumni, Eric Moore (UConn), Jamie Turnquist (UNL) and Sonu Chadalavada (RPI) discussed their positions in industry and the impact EAN has had on their careers. For more information, check out our Alumni webpage below!  
Stay tuned for information on new events!

[EAN Alumni Page](#)

### Meet the new Associate Director

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Mindy Heggen is an Iowa State University graduate ('06 B.S. Animal Science; '18 M.Ed. Education). She worked for 17 years at Iowa State, most recently as an academic advisor in mechanical engineering. Her research focuses on minoritized identities and the challenges these students face in American Higher Education.

When the mechanical engineering department wanted to explore starting an Iowa State chapter of the EAN, Mindy was more than excited to take on this challenge.

This opportunity allowed her to use her education, experience, and passions to further expand access and exposure to engineering education. Working with undergraduate students across disciplines, watching them grow as leaders and presenters was extremely rewarding.

Mindy is a proud mom to two active children, an Australian shepherd, and a few cats. In her free time, she enjoys spending time in nature and geocaching.

**[Farewell Sally](#)**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Sally Wei started with the EAN in the fall of 2021. Prior to becoming our inaugural Associate Director, Sally started and grew the University of Nebraska EA Program. Sally Wei has been the driving force of our EAN starting at a time where we essentially had to develop the structure, build the community, expand our reach, quantify our metrics, and step up in providing support to our EA Programs across the country.

Under her direction, we were able to hold our first professional development conference and expanded our training offerings to four regional workshops. She has expanded our data collection and brought new programs into the Network. She has also initiated and supported our various committees.

Sally's impact on the EAN has been huge! We are so thankful for the time and energy Sally has put into making our EAN thrive. We will miss having Sally as part of our leadership team but wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement!

---

**Thank You to Our Sponsors!**



[Visit the RTX Website](#)

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Who We Are

The EA Impact

Network News

Get Involved

Network Team

EA Members

 **engineeringambassador**



Copyright (C) 2024 | Engineering Ambassadors Network | All rights reserved

<https://www.engineeringambassadorsnetwork.org>

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)



[View this email in your browser](#)