

Dear SPE Members:

I want to let you know of today's roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C. that addressed our nation's progress toward enhancing engineering, math and science opportunities for women and minorities. The information below may be of interest to your site visitors. We would appreciate if you would consider featuring this information for your visitors along with links outlined below. We can also share graphics if you would like.

The discussion, entitled "***Advancing Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering – What Remains to be Done?***," was co-hosted by **ExxonMobil**, the **Society of Women Engineers** and **SECME** (formally the Southeastern Consortium of Minority Engineers). The roundtable – moderated by Jacqueline Thomas, Chairman of the National Press Foundation – featured a panel of distinguished members of the United States government and members of organizations that have played important roles in advancing educational excellence for women and minorities in science and engineering. The panel addressed the fact that the number of women and minority engineers has remained predominantly low. Consider:

- . Women constitute 46% of the workforce in the United States but only 23% of scientists and engineers. (National Science Foundation, 2000.)
- . African Americans and Hispanics, accounting for almost 21% of the workforce, are in just 6% of the science, engineering and technology jobs. (Congressional Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development, 2001.)

**In an effort to fill in the gap, ExxonMobil Foundation will award a \$600,000 three-year grant to the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and a \$900,000 three-year grant to SECME, Inc.** The SWE grant will help fund "Girls Do Science, Engineering and Technology" program to develop curricula to help K-12 teachers train young women for careers in science. The SECME grant will help underwrite SECME's Summer Institute, Leadership Academy and SECME State Scholarships. SWE chapters across the United States receive mini-grants to provide guidance to young women about career opportunities in engineering and related fields.

Tackling these issues during today's panel were influential minds in the areas of science and math education for women and minorities. Distinguished panelists included the following:

- . Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
- . Representative Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX)
- . Dr. Yvonne Freeman, Executive Director, SECME
- . Betty Shanahan, Executive Director and CEO, Society of Women Engineers

For more information please visit: [www.exxonmobil.com](http://www.exxonmobil.com), [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org), [www.secme.org](http://www.secme.org).

Thank You