Million Women Mentors
Delaware

Engineering Your Tomorrow 2026:
Designing Smarter Cities and Brighter Futures



The 2026 *Engineering Your Tomorrow* STEM event hosted by Million Women Mentors – Delaware was an inspiring day of creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving for the next generation of innovators. Nearly **100 middle school girls in grades 6–8** and more than 90 dedicated volunteers came together on February 28 at the Conrad Schools of Science to explore how STEM can make a real difference in the world around us. With the support of the 13 generous sponsors, girls and their adult chaperones were able to explore careers in STEM and meet Miss Delaware, Hailey Mack, a civil engineering student at the University of Delaware.

At the heart of the day was our hands-on engineering challenge, **"Storm Smart Streets."** Working in teams, the girls stepped into the role of city engineers and urban planners, tackling a timely and real-world problem: how to design a city that better manages rainwater while reducing pollution run-off. Using creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork, girls designed and tested model cities that balanced infrastructure, environmental protection, and community needs.

The activity rooms buzzed with excitement as ideas took shape—girls tested bare cities to understand the scope of the challenge and then brainstormed how to address the most important issues. Green spaces appeared, innovative drainage solutions emerged, and thoughtful discussions unfolded about how engineering choices impact both people and the environment. Volunteer scientists and engineers guided and encouraged the teams, sharing their own STEM journeys and helping the girls see themselves as future engineers, scientists, and problem-solvers.

Girls also explored coding and conductance in the afternoon during activities led by Kai Coders and Dr. Laure Kayser of the University of Delaware Materials Science and Engineering Department. Beyond these exciting activities, the day was a powerful example of what can happen when a community comes together around a shared goal. The enthusiasm of the students, the commitment of our volunteers, and the support of our sponsors including Croda, Incyte, DuPont, Qnity, Adesis, Artesian, FMC, Delaware Afterschool Network, Agilent, Health Foods for Healthy Kids, Delaware Foundation for Science and Math Education (DFSME), Thermo Fisher Scientific, and Four Youth Productions created an inclusive, empowering environment where curiosity thrived and confidence grew.

While the girls were busy designing storm-smart cities, parents and chaperones participated in parallel adult workshops focused on supporting and encouraging girls in STEM fields. Sessions included representatives from Red Clay School District, Delaware Technical Community College discussing dual-enrollment opportunities, the University of Delaware, Science Olympiad, a STEM career panel, and even a hands-on bath bomb–making activity. These workshops helped families better understand educational options and how to support students interested in STEM—while having some fun along the way.

By the end of the event, it was clear that *Engineering Your Tomorrow 2026* wasn't just about building storm-smart streets—it was about building **confidence, connections, and a vision for the future**. We are proud to have provided an experience that encouraged so many girls to imagine themselves shaping the world through STEM, and we can't wait to see where their ideas take them next

About Million Women Mentors – Delaware

Million Women Mentors is the premier network dedicated to encouraging girls and women to pursue, persist and thrive in STEM careers.

Join us in supporting initiatives like *Engineering Your Tomorrow* and help empower more young women to succeed in the world of STEM—because together, we can engineer a brighter future!

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