

SDI RC Helping Women in STEM Succeed in a Tough Industry through Partnerships with Three Organizations Dedicated to Mentorship, Professional Development and Advocacy

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In an industry widely considered male-dominated, women in technology are working together to break down barriers to success. The Employer Engagement team at the [San Diego & Imperial Counties Community Colleges Regional Consortium \(SDI RC\)](#) is doing its part by partnering with various women-led organizations to help support each one's efforts to build bridges between women in their respective fields in the hopes of not only improving recruitment but also retention rates in the industry.

Among them is the [Society of Women Engineers San Diego County Professional Section \(SWE SD\)](#), the local section of an international nonprofit dedicated to empowering women to excel in engineering and as leaders. For more than five years, SDI RC has collaborated with SWE SD to assist community colleges across the region in establishing SWE affiliates. This allows students to gain access to scholarships and invaluable networking opportunities, including participating in advisory boards, STEM outreach and work-based learning activities.

"I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact of this collaboration on our community," said Dr. Tracy Nguyen, SWE-SD Vice President. "Our partnership extends beyond the classroom, creating opportunities to strengthen the local workforce and economy. By uniting our regional workforce ecosystem, enhancing community college capacity, and addressing systemic equity gaps, we are driving meaningful change. This work aligns seamlessly with SWE's mission to empower women in engineering, making it even more personally significant to me."

In a similar vein, SDI RC has also worked with [Women in CyberSecurity San Diego \(WiCyS SD\)](#), an affiliate of the national nonprofit working to improve the cybersecurity workforce by amplifying women's voices and fostering their advancement in the field. Since 2021, WiCyS SD affiliates have participated in several college and high school events coordinated and hosted by the SDI RC and even joined college advisory boards.

Earlier this month, WiCyS SD hosted its third annual Cyber Career Day at Palomar College in San Marcos, which was filled with informative sessions and chances for students to network with industry professionals, learn about various career paths in cybersecurity and get their questions answered.



Most recently, SDI RC has connected with the local chapter of a global non-profit, [Latinas in Tech - San Diego](#) (LiT SD) to support its efforts in cultivating community, creating opportunities, and celebrating the success of fellow Latinas. Latinas in Tech was founded in Silicone Valley in 2014. Since the local chapter launched last year, LiT SD has grown to nearly 200 members.

“It really does take a village, so we have been partnering with other STEM organizations, like SWE SD, to come together to empower more professionals,” said Tina Searcy, LiT SD’s Chapter President. “It’s all about relationships. All of these organizations exist to really learn from each other and grow together. We’re working on being able to build our membership so that Latinas have a space where they can connect with other Latinas that are in the industry and learn about these resources that are available to them.”

Although it’s free to join LiT SD, the chapter is also working to launch a premium membership, where, for a monthly fee, members will have access to specialized webinars and resources like LiT’s AI Academy, which can help create and/or master AI tools.

Through their partnership with SDI RC, these organizations can help empower even more women in tech and create meaningful change in the industry.