Friday, October 14, 2016

MAGNETS Meeting Notes

Members in attendance:

1. Greg Krupit

2. Anthony Guevara

Topics for Presentations:

* How can we communicate to freshman that issues exist? How can we help them understand how to help?
  + Talk about individual experiences of students at Texas A&M (as reported to MAGNETS members, or to Women in Engineering)
    - Real world examples from people who could be their peers could really get the point across
  + Solid statistics
    - Refer to [Stemming the Tide: Why Women Leave Engineering](http://www.raeng.org.uk/publications/other/stemming-the-tide-report)for statistics about the state of gender inequality in engineering
* Assignment for MAGNETS members:
  + Go to 3-5 women in engineering at Texas A&M and ask, “If you could tell freshman 1 or 2 things about what it’s like to be a woman in engineering, what would you want them to know?”

Communicating with the outside world:

* Can we work with people younger than freshman?
  + Anthony: “It’s hard to bend a tree that’s already old”
  + Can we visit high/middle schools and do presentations/workshops?
  + Kids say things that hurt people’s feelings, if they aren’t called on it, eventually this becomes normal (which might be why we have the culture we have now)
    - This is one stereotypes are maintained
* Can we talk to parents?
  + How can parents use inclusive language and behavior in their homes?

How can we promote self-awareness and awareness of surroundings?

* It’s hard for Greg to naturally see the issues that affect women in engineering, but once he was told, he saw examples of discrimination and non-inclusive behavior happening all around him
* In the event that guys only hang out with guys, and girls only hang out with girls, how can they ever learn about each other?
* Let’s learn what the experiences of those around us are having – like last semester, we can ask our female peers what kinds of experiences they have had so we know what to look for

Speaking up when we need to

* We need someone good with social media to expand on the “Dude, not cool!” campaign
* Is it okay to speak up to a professor who is discriminating in the classroom?

Plan on having another meeting in 2 weeks (10/28/16)