

Reimagining Post-Secondary Engineering Education for Rural and Low-Income Students

This workshop will engage attendees in intentional discussion and reimagination of how current practices around recruitment, transitions into post-secondary engineering, and experiences in engineering programs impact students from rural and/or low-income backgrounds, particularly students with differing access to resources for academic preparation. With the specific lenses of the workshop team's focus on rural students and low-income students, we seek to highlight the various aspects of education that impact students' participation in post-secondary engineering. As a result, we hope to engage participants in a discussion about how existing practices in their classrooms and programs, for example, can impact students from rural and/or low-income backgrounds as they progress through engineering programs. We encourage attendees to bring program descriptions, syllabi from courses they teach, or student-facing policies and documents to use as real examples or be open to creating something entirely new for their contexts. Attendees will leave this workshop with a better understanding of how diversity, equity and inclusion efforts can be expanded to include rural and low-income students, and how they can make immediate changes to their practices to create more inclusive and supportive educational environments. By the end of this workshop, participants will: Understand the unique barriers and supports rural and/or low-income students experience as they pursue post-secondary engineering degrees. Identify and analyze barriers for rural and/or low-income students in their programs, classrooms, and learning environments. Adapt existing materials (e.g. program descriptions, processes, course syllabi, policies) to be more responsive, inclusive, and supportive of rural and/or low-income students.