

Brilliant Bracelets at WOW! That's Engineering

On April 11, IIE volunteered to provide an Industrial Engineering-themed experiment during SWE Minnesota's annual WOW! That's Engineering event, held at Normandale Community College in Bloomington. WOW! That's Engineering is designed to provide girls with early exposure to science and engineering concepts.

IIE's student outreach "experiment" is called "Brilliant Bracelets" and provides education on process improvement principles such as brainstorming, spaghetti diagrams, layout design, and visual standard work through a hands-on activity where "bracelet factories" produce Brilliant Bracelets for picky customers. The girls work in teams to develop ideas for improvement and implement their "future state" in order to produce bracelets more quickly and with higher quality.

Participants and volunteers agreed that this year's event was fantastic! Over 125 girls and 50 volunteers came together to participate in 4 experiments total. Everything went smoothly, everyone had a lot of fun, and Normandale has shown interest in hosting future events.

A big thank you goes out to our volunteers who generously donated their time and allowed us to contribute two separate experiment rooms running the Brilliant Bracelets activity: Kelly Minchow, Jeremy Knapp, Tracey Bauer, Michael Lubke, Raymond Zhang, Janelle Ross, Madeline Flandrick, Britta Rowan. Please contact Britta Rowan (brittarowan@gmail.com) if you would like to be notified the next time there is an opportunity to volunteer at a Brilliant Bracelets event.