



University of Idaho
College of Engineering

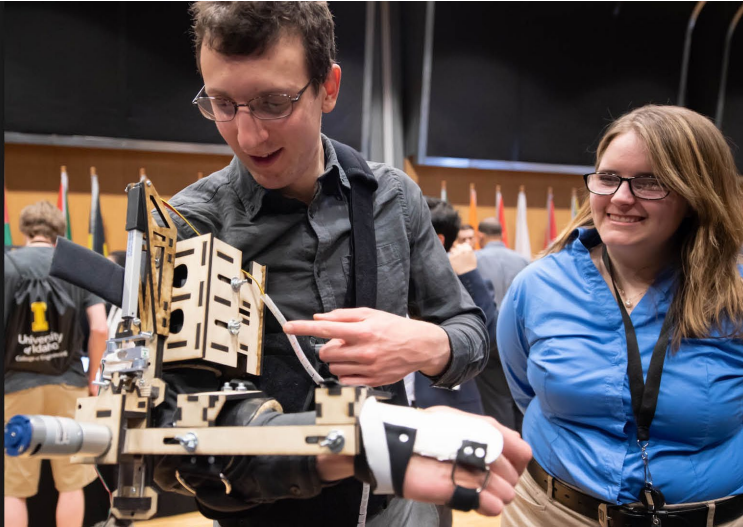
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DEAN'S
NEWSLETTER

EXPO

engineering ▲ design

2024 Edition



The [Engineering Design EXPO](#) at the University of Idaho College of Engineering is a cherished Vandal tradition and the longest-running showcase of student engineering and technological innovation in the Pacific Northwest.

Our students have worked hard this past year, participating in our nationally recognized Interdisciplinary Capstone Design Program, **ranked top 7 in the nation by the National Academy of Engineering** for infusing real-world experiences into undergraduate engineering education. For many, this is the last big project before launching their careers.

For more than three decades, we have listened to our industry partners and business leaders, educating students with skillsets that align with emerging technologies that are reshaping the workplace and job market. As you [walk the EXPO hall](#) this year, you'll see many examples of these skillsets.

Our [honored EXPO keynote speaker Jeff Binford](#) knows burgeoning workforce needs all too well. Jeff's more than 20-year professional career

with Micron Technology has taken him from Singapore, across the U.S. and to Idaho.

As Senior Director of U.S. Expansion Planning, Jeff is setting the strategy and building a comprehensive plan for **Micron's more than \$100 billion semiconductor fabrication facility expansion** in Idaho and New York, the largest expansion in U.S. history to increase domestic supply of leading-edge memory chips.

Micron expects the **\$15 billion Boise facility to bring 2,000 jobs to Idaho** and lead other employers to create 15,000 additional jobs.

For the past decade, the University of Idaho College of Engineering has worked closely with industry leaders like Micron to build Idaho's professional semiconductor manufacturing workforce pipeline through its [**Next Generation Microelectronics Research Center \(NGeM\)**](#).

EXPO attracts hundreds of rural Idaho students to its [**Engineering the Future**](#) and [**VIP Mentorship programs**](#). K-12 and community college students get glimpse into groundbreaking Vandal innovations and insights into the life at the University of Idaho.

Industry leaders from across the region attend and help judge the projects presented at EXPO, giving ample opportunity for students to meet and interact with industry leaders who are looking to hire highly-skilled engineers.

The success of EXPO is indebted to the generous support of industry and academic partners. For the sixth year, **Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories** is EXPO's presenting sponsor. Thank you SEL for your dedication to the College of Engineering and to the University of Idaho.


Thank you to all our donors and friends who have given to EXPO over the past year, including this year's industry sponsors Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho STEM EcosySTEM, The Boeing Company, Engineering Outreach at the University of Idaho, Micron, Geotek, Inc., Idaho Power, Avista Corp., CCI Speer, J-U-B Engineers, Tamarack Grove Engineering

and POWER Foundation/POWER Engineers.

I hope you see you all at EXPO April 25 and 26. Go Vandal Innovation!

[View EXPO Schedule](#)

[Explore 2024 Capstone Projects](#)



Suzie Long, Ph.D., P.E., C.P.E.M., F. ASEM, F.IISE
Dean, College of Engineering



Thank You for a Record Vandal Giving Day!



Empowering innovation. Building a better Idaho. Advancing cutting-edge research.

A BOLD thank you to all of you for your support during Vandal Giving Day!

This year is our largest Vandal Giving day yet! University-wide, we raised over \$1.1 million, and thanks to you, our college was recognized as one of the top-supported colleges, raising \$209,265.

We are humbled by the outpouring of support and recognition from our engineering friends and family. Thank you.

[Learn More](#)

ENGR Only Higher Education Institution in State to Earn IBR's Empowering Women Award



The University of Idaho College of Engineering is the only higher education institution in the state to be recognized as an Empowering Women honoree by the Idaho Business Review.

Honored alongside industry leaders like Micron Technology and Idaho National Laboratory, the designation recognizes companies for strong commitment to supporting and elevating women in Idaho through tangible and innovative efforts that advance women in the workplace and community.

[Read About Our Students' Experiences](#)

ASCE Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe Teams Honored at Regionals



Left: University of Idaho Steel Bridge team. Right: University of Idaho Concrete Canoe team

Our Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge Competition Teams took top placement in the Pacific Northwest American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Symposium.

The Concrete Canoe team earned first place for technical presentation. Steel Bridge took first for aesthetics and lightness, and second place for efficiency.

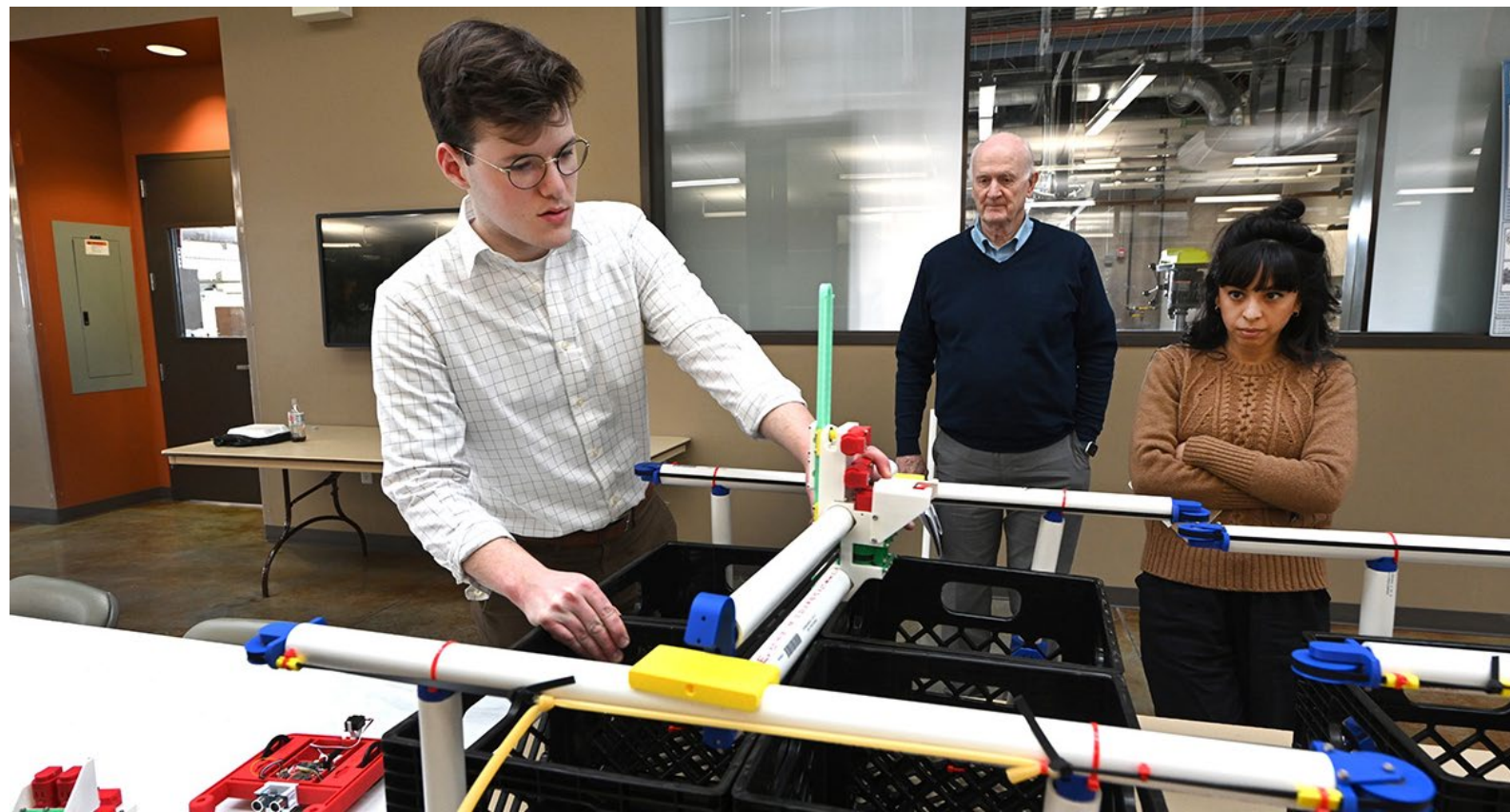
Vandals have been competing in ASCE competition at the regional and national levels for more than 125 years. Our college founded one of the first ASCE student chapters in the nation in 1926, and have been providing exceptional learning, training, and research experiences to students since.

The U of I ASCE student chapter is open to all students and is dedicated to providing valuable experiences to aspiring engineers that foster growth and

hands-on skillbuilding. The chapter organizes industry presentations, infrastructure tours and oversees the canoe and bridge competition teams.

[Learn More About This Club](#)

Experiential Robotics Platform for Agriculture program



University of Idaho College of Engineering Associate Professor [Dakota Roberson](#) and University of Idaho College of Agricultural & Life Sciences Extension Educator [Tom Jacobsen](#) are part of an entrepreneurial team working to infuse Idaho classrooms with experiential robotics education.

Funded by the Idaho National Laboratory, the Experiential Robotics Platform for Agriculture (AgXRP) program utilizes an open-source software platform and 3D-printed components to provide Idaho educators an affordable, easy to use gateway to robotics education, including free

curriculum and resources to help students take their first steps into engineering, automation, and software development.

With a focus on agricultural robotics, the program emphasizes skill-building and real-world application in Idaho's top economic driver and job market.

Upcoming Events

[Engineering Design EXPO Technical Presentations](#) – April 25 & 26

[Engineering Design EXPO](#) – In-Person EXPO Hall – April 26

College of Engineering Social Media



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