

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

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ENGINEERING • EXCELLENCE
EDWARDSVILLE



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

The SIUE School of Engineering is entering a brand-new academic year with exciting momentum. Looking back, this past year was nothing short of extraordinary, marked by record-setting gifts, national recognition, and incredible accomplishments by our students, faculty, and partners.

We are proud to announce the largest gift in the School's history, the Edward C. Grady and Karen S. Grady Endowment Planned Estate Gift, valued at an estimated \$3 million. This transformative support will strengthen our programs and provide opportunities for generations of engineering students to come.

More students are choosing SIUE for its quality, value, and opportunity. Undergraduate enrollment at SIUE has surpassed 1,450 students in fall 2025, the highest since the pandemic. Additionally, the School of Engineering is climbing the national ranks with multiple honors earned in the last year, including:

- **20th in Graduate Programs** by College Factual Best Value
- **23rd in Undergraduate Programs** by College Factual Best Value
- **24th Best Engineering Master's Programs for Your Money** by Money.com

Our students continue to exemplify excellence in national competitions. SIUE teams have made history, winning first place in both Digital and Analog Blackbox segments of the 2024 IEEE Regional Competitions while the Cougar Baja Team roared to victory with a first-place finish in the Endurance Race at the 2025 Winter Baja.

Our dedicated faculty have also received numerous awards of distinction. Stephen Duda, PE, received ASHRAE's National Exceptional Service Award, and David Sherrill, PLS, was named IPLSA 2024 Land Surveyor of the Year.

The School maintains thriving partnerships with top organizations throughout the engineering industry. Twenty-two companies around Illinois and Missouri are now proudly supporting our new Surveying and Geomatics program, contributing over \$500,000 to invest in students and advance the future of our profession.

With growing enrollment, national visibility, and industry-leading partnerships, the SIUE School of Engineering is on the rise. Our students, faculty, and alumni are making headlines, shaping industries, and pushing boundaries.

The future of engineering is being built at SIUE. Here's to another year of innovation, collaboration, and impact.

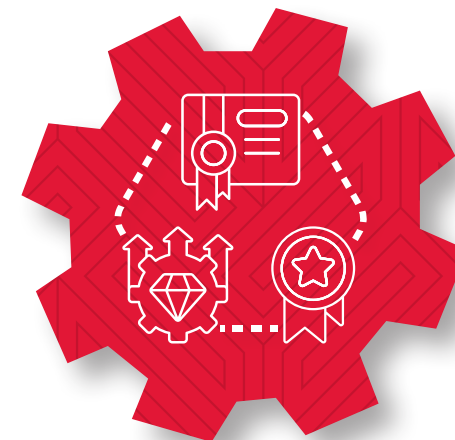
Sincerely,

Cem Karacal, PhD
Dean



ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Since 1983, the School of Engineering has prepared students to meet our region's and nation's growing needs for more engineers, computer scientists, and construction managers. Our efforts fuel the prosperity of our region.



**GROWING REPUTATION FOR
OUTSTANDING
PROGRAMS**



**RISING ACADEMIC
QUALIFICATIONS OF
APPLICANTS**



**NEARLY
100% JOB PLACEMENT
OF OUR GRADUATES**



**GRADUATING
HIGHLY PREPARED
TECHNOLOGY LEADERS
WITH PRACTICAL EXPERTISE**



**ACCOMPLISHED
ALUMNI AND FACULTY**

ENGINEERING A HEALTHIER FUTURE

What if a simple medical imaging test could predict your risk of a heart attack before your symptoms ever appear? The technology behind this is taking shape in the lab of Jon Klingensmith, PhD, who has combined medical imaging and artificial intelligence (AI) in a way that could change the way physicians detect cardiovascular disease.

Klingensmith, associate professor and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has earned a provisional U.S. patent for technology that could make cardiovascular disease detection more accessible, affordable, and accurate. The system uses AI models and routine imaging tools like ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to automatically locate and measure fat surrounding the heart.

"The heart is surrounded by a layer of fat called visceral fat," said Klingensmith. "This layer of fat around your heart should be relatively thin if you are healthy. As it thickens, it can cause problems that put you at a substantial risk of developing cardiovascular disease."

"When building an AI model, you must know the 'answer' to a problem before you can train a computer to find these answers on other data. In my world, we annotate images and label them in a way that provides the answer so we can teach the computer to find the answer."

*Jon Klingensmith, PhD
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

This project is a practical example of how deep learning and AI models are working to transform the medical landscape.

The system applies the models to medical images and builds detailed 3D maps of the visceral fat distribution around the heart. Klingensmith and his student collaborators are developing a system that automatically maps out the thickness of visceral fat. If there is enough fat near the arteries of the heart, one could estimate the likelihood of experiencing a cardiac event in the future. Students are actively developing software and analyzing data used to train AI models.

"Students work with me in the Biomedical Imaging Research Lab to write the software that takes the images and helps predict what is there," said Klingensmith. "From there, we take the two-dimensional images and develop three-dimensional maps that show where the fat is thickest."

Support from the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health has helped expand Klingensmith's research, funding the purchase of specialized ultrasound equipment and accelerating software development. Beyond the innovation in this technology, Klingensmith sees the lasting impact of this research through his students' education.

"This project gives students a very concrete problem to focus on," said Klingensmith. "They have a practical application where they use the tools of the trade to make something real."

ONAL HONORED FOR TEACHING, RESEARCH, COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE

Sinan Onal, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Industrial Engineering, is a driving force behind innovation in the School of Engineering. Onal has earned three prestigious honors from SIUE and the SIU System that showcase his role in shaping the next generation of engineers and advancing cutting-edge technologies.

Onal received the SIUE Teaching Excellence Award, one of the University's highest honors given to faculty. Selected by a committee of faculty peers, the award affirms Onal's efforts in the classroom as an educator. In and out of the classroom, he emphasizes the importance of bridging the gap between theory and practice and building a space where students feel empowered.

"This recognition reinforces my belief in inclusive, student-centered education and encourages me to continue creating a learning environment where all students feel supported, respected, and challenged to grow," said Onal.

Onal was also awarded two SIU System honors for his cross-system collaborations. His first honor, the SIU System Faculty Collaboration Award, celebrates faculty whose cross-campus partnerships exemplify innovation, impact, and inclusive excellence.

"To be recognized by the SIU System for collaborative work is especially meaningful to me," said Onal. "Some of the most important challenges we face—whether in education, healthcare, or technology—require interdisciplinary thinking and institutional cooperation."

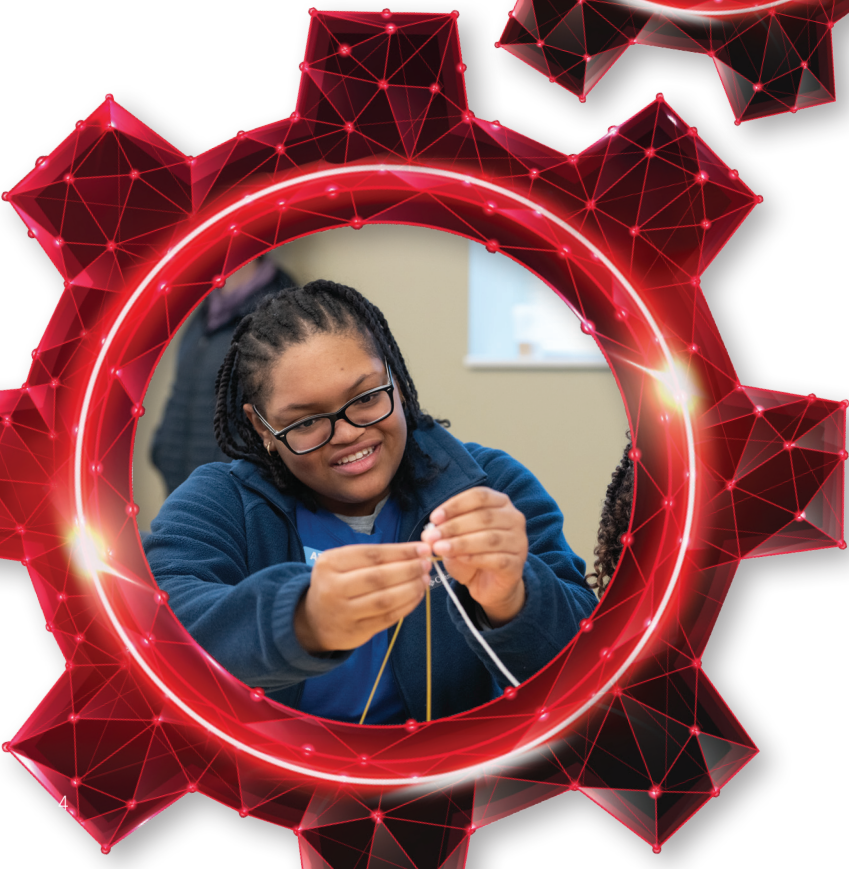
Secondly, Onal was awarded the SIU System Collaborative Grant to support a joint research initiative with SIU Carbondale's Chao Lu, PhD. Their project, "Advancing Biomedical Research Through AI-Driven Dynamic Gait Phase Detection," is developing a real-time, non-invasive, and cost-effective system that uses electromyography (EMG) and deep learning to improve motion analysis in clinical and rehabilitative settings.

"This grant validates the technical merit of our work and highlights how interdisciplinary partnerships can drive innovation and address real-world challenges."

*Sinan Onal, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Industrial Engineering*

"Our objective is to reduce reliance on expensive lab-based equipment and expand access to motion analysis," said Onal.

EMPOWERING FUTURE WOMEN ENGINEERS



As a third-year electrical engineering student at SIUE, Ximena Gonzalez Alfaro is finding inspiration in the opportunities she's experienced both in and out of the classroom. As president of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) student chapter, she is committed to creating those same opportunities for others.

SWE holds a variety of professional and community events throughout the academic year, including Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. Presented by Ameren Illinois, this annual event welcomes middle and high school students to campus, aiming to educate and inspire them to explore the field of engineering.

This year, a record number 215 students attended the event and participated in hands-on activities to explore the fields of electrical, mechatronics, mechanical, industrial, and civil engineering, as well as computer science. Participants heard from keynote speaker Angela Heise, SIUE computer science alumna and newly retired Microsoft Worldwide Public Sector CVP.

Gonzalez Alfaro said that when she was younger, she did not know what engineering was. Now that she is studying electrical engineering, she hopes she can help introduce more students to the field.

"Our main goal is to reach as many students as we can who are curious about what engineering means to them and the world around them."

*Ximena Gonzalez Alfaro
Junior, Electrical Engineering
President, Society of Women Engineers
Student Chapter*

"Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is an introduction, so students understand the types of engineering and learn how broad engineering can be," Gonzalez Alfaro said. "Inspiring young minds is what it is all about."

CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT APPOINTED TO NCHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Civil engineering junior Aman Pai has been appointed to the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Board of Directors. The NCHC serves thousands of university honors programs and their students across the globe. Pai is the first SIUE student to hold this position.

Pai, a member of the John Martinson Honors Program at SIUE, began his journey to the board appointment after attending the Council's annual conference during his year at SIUE. Inspired by the research and community-based projects presented by students from across the country, he decided to apply for the open board position.

"The annual conference was transformative," Pai shared. "I felt empowered to make an impact of my own."

As a board member, he hopes to help institutions and students alike recognize the real-world applications of an honors education.

"I want to give back to the community that empowered me," he said. "Honors education is more than just academics; it's about shaping the world and guiding our communities."

Pai is working to expand SIUE's Engineers Without Borders student chapter. The group connects and inspires students, faculty, and local businesses to support global humanitarian efforts by developing engineering solutions to help communities gain access to vital resources like clean water, shelter, and food.

"I want to work on projects that revolve around community development, whether that means designing transport infrastructure, developing recreation centers, or managing construction projects," said Pai. "I want to help underserved communities thrive."



SIUE POWERS UP WORKFORCE READINESS WITH FANUC CERTIFICATION

SIUE has proudly joined FANUC America's network of over 1,600 institutions with Certified Training Education programs offering nationally recognized NOCTI certifications in robotics operation and technician training. This partnership equips students with advanced, industry-relevant skills in automation and robotics, preparing them for success in today's high-tech manufacturing workforce.

For more information, contact Nima Lotfi, PhD, nlotfiy@siue.edu

TRAINING TOMORROW'S WATER PROFESSIONALS

The Environmental Resources Training Center (ERTC) at SIUE has served as a hub for training water and wastewater professionals across the Metro East and beyond for more than four decades. Established after the 1972 Clean Water Act, the ERTC provides a EPA-designated center for educating operators in protecting public health through clean water systems. It houses an indoor 30,000-gallon-per-day treatment plant and water quality labs and has trained thousands of professionals.

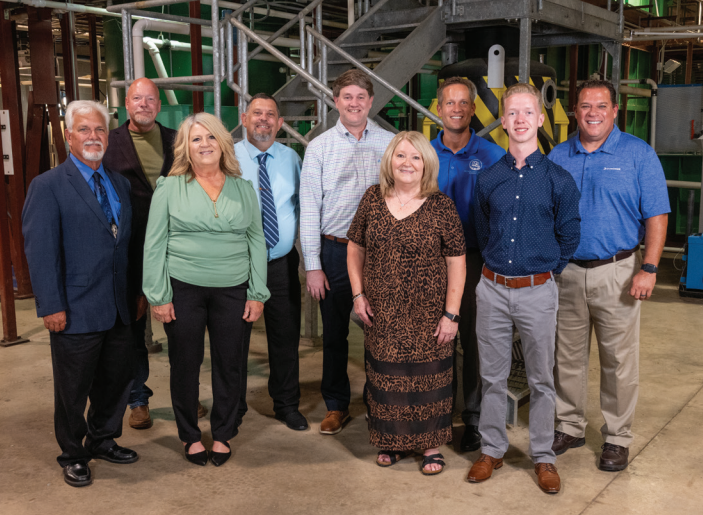
The Water Quality Control Operations Certificate of Completion program includes plant and classroom learning four days a week for two semesters, followed by a 10-week internship. Approximately 85% of graduates are employed within 12 months in the water and wastewater industry and earn licenses recognized in Illinois and Missouri. The ERTC celebrated its latest class of graduates in summer 2025 (pictured below).

“The ERTC provides students with hands-on experience working in the pilot-scale drinking water and wastewater plants inside the center,” said Interim Director Drew Hoelscher, a 2002 graduate

of the ERTC program who returned in 2015 as director of drinking water operations. “That experience is recognized by regulatory agencies such as the IEPA and MODNR, which allows students to be fully certified.”

Elizabeth Bowyer entered the program in August 2023 after earning a degree in justice administration and political science and working summers at her local wastewater treatment plant. “I thought I could combine the areas of study that I loved and do something in the realm of environmental regulation and compliance,” she said.

Bowyer quickly embraced the ERTC’s immersive style, finding the blend of hands-on and classroom instruction especially beneficial. “We had hands-on time every morning out in the pilot plant, rotating between the lab, wastewater operations, drinking water operations, and maintenance,” she said.



Bowyer accepted a position as a water quality and environmental compliance specialist for lead with Illinois American Water before she completed the program in May 2024. Beyond technical training, Bowyer credits the ERTC’s faculty and her cohort for fostering a supportive learning environment that helps students reach their goals.

“Our staff is passionate about what they do, which makes our learning and working environment exceptional,” said Hoelscher. “We all enjoy sharing our experiences with new operators so they, too, can receive the many opportunities this industry has available.”

In April 2025, Missouri American Water President Richard Svindland presented a \$420,000 gift to establish the Missouri American Water Operator Scholarship Endowment. The fund will provide scholarships to students entering the program each fall and spring into perpetuity.

“Missouri American Water has experienced tremendous success with graduates from the SIUE ERTC program, and we are committed to building on that momentum,” said Svindland. “We’re proud to support individuals as they enroll in the program, complete their training, and launch meaningful careers in this essential field.”





COLLABORATION IN THE FAST LANE

SIUE's growing partnership with World Wide Technology Raceway (WWTR) continues to gain momentum, with student innovation and industry engagement taking the front seat.

During the 2025 One Day, One SIUE celebration, Chancellor James T. Minor, PhD, recognized Curtis Francois, WWTR owner and president, as SIUE's 2025 Distinguished Community Leader. The award celebrates his continued support of STEM outreach and student success, including efforts to develop meaningful internships that give SIUE students the hands-on experience needed to thrive in a competitive industry.

"We have been grateful for the opportunity to enhance our partnership with World Wide Technology Raceway in recent years," said Chris Gordon, PhD, School of Engineering professor and associate dean. "This partnership has connected our students more closely with the raceway and with professional racing teams, which helps them envision how their student experience can translate into opportunities upon graduation."

Vehicles built by the School of Engineering's student-led design teams were showcased at One Day, One SIUE alongside a full-size IndyCar in WWTR's interactive STEM Lane. The display highlighted the real-world applications of engineering education and the strength of collaborative, community-driven partnerships.

"Our teams are a vibrant part of our School of Engineering community and provide ample hands-on experience to complement the School of Engineering curricula."

*Chris Gordon, PhD
Professor and Associate Dean*

Student design teams are at the heart of some of the University's most impactful applied learning experiences. By designing, building, and racing vehicles, the Formula SAE, Baja, and Solar Car team members hone advanced technical skills, creativity, and collaboration.

Through the teams' presence at WWTR, students have the opportunity to showcase their vehicles to the public, engage with industry professionals, and build meaningful connections with alumni and community partners.



FORMULA SAE

Each year, the Formula SAE team starts a new vehicle from scratch, building a new car and applying their engineering knowledge to overcome real-world design, fabrication, and testing challenges.

"Formula SAE bridges the gap between the theory we learn in the classroom and the real-world application of engineering, allowing us to design and drive a smaller version of an F1 car," said Brandon Murphy, senior mechanical engineering student and president of the 2025 SIUE Formula SAE team. "I also made a lot of friends I would have likely never met outside of the team."

The team, including drivers Ethan Dietrich and Dylan Head, who are both senior construction management students, is planning to test the car ahead of their next competition in May 2026 at the Michigan International Speedway, which features more than 120 teams from around the world.

This past summer, the team showcased their race car at the NTT IndyCar Series at WWTR, highlighting SIUE's commitment to hands-on, experiential learning in engineering.



SOLAR TEAM

Recharged since its last competitive appearance in 2019, the SIUE Solar Car Team debuted the club's new solar-powered vehicle, Orion, at the Electrek Formula Sun Grand Prix (FSGP) competition this summer in Bowling Green, Ky. The team worked around the clock to ensure that its vehicle was ready for the FSGP's intense scrutineering phase and the endurance portion of the competition.

"We could not have done it without every one of our teammates working together and working day and night, including one all-nighter until 5 a.m.," said Jakob Schoeberle, BS electrical engineering '25, immediate past president of the solar car team.

During the competition, teams that successfully passed scrutineering took to the track to complete as many laps as possible within three eight-hour racing sessions using solar power to achieve maximum speed and efficiency.

The car's debut was made possible by the team's skills, old-fashioned elbow grease, and critical donor support. Utility company Ameren Illinois pledged \$40,000 to the team during the One Day One SIUE fundraising event, and Lewis and Clark Community College partnered with the team to weld the vehicle's steel frame.

"These partnerships have given a lot of life back to the team and helped set us up for success," said Henry Jones, senior mechanical engineering student and incoming team president.



COUGAR BAJA

The Cougar Baja team's vehicle, affectionately named Larry, is designed to traverse harsh terrain and withstand hours of intense racing, while being light, maneuverable, quick, and comfortable.

"Cougar Baja is one of the best ways to learn the practical side of engineering," said Carson Spies, senior mechanical engineering student and 2025 team president. "We weld, machine, model, and build these cars ourselves, and it is all done by the students. It really is a whole new curriculum or class, expanding on the knowledge we've gained in the university setting."

The Cougar Baja team achieved a historic victory this year at the 2025 Winter Baja competition at Michigan Tech University. Out of 40 cars from 20 different schools, SIUE secured first place in the endurance race, marking the team's first-ever win at the event.

In October 2025, the team traveled to South Carolina for the Baja SAE Carolina event and placed 35th overall among 66 teams.



AUTOMATION EXPERT ENHANCES MECHATRONICS AND ROBOTICS CURRICULUM

The School of Engineering is taking steps to bring the Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering curriculum to the next level, and alumnus Paul Galeski, PE, chair and CEO of GrayMatter Systems and founder and CEO of HavenSmart, is helping lead that charge.

A recognized leader in industrial automation and smart technology, Galeski earned his bachelor's in electrical engineering from SIUE in 1983. Over the course of his career, he has applied automation to improve both industrial systems and everyday life. Through his current work at GrayMatter Systems, as well as at HavenSmart, Galeski develops leading edge industrial automation applications and home automation solutions that allow aging individuals to live independently longer, using technology to reduce reliance on caregivers while enhancing comfort, safety, and dignity.

Now, Galeski is using his experience to help the School shape a program that ensures graduates are ready to meet the rapidly evolving needs of the modern workforce.

“When smart, flexible, and intuitive technologies meet the physical world, that’s where profound positive impact happens.”
*Paul Galeski, PE, BS Electrical Engineering ’83
Chair and CEO, GrayMatter Systems
Founder and CEO, HavenSmart*

“I’m really excited about the Mechatronics program,” said Galeski, who has been assisting in revamping its curriculum. “I am helping to craft the program into something more focused and usable in manufacturing and general automation. It’s exciting and very rewarding to me, and I believe it will be greatly beneficial for the students as well as the University.”

With more than two decades of service on both the School of Engineering and Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering advisory boards, Galeski observed gaps between academic instruction and workforce demands, particularly in the industrial automation sector.. He commended SIUE for doing something different: directly involving industry leaders to ensure the curriculum produces workforce-ready engineers.

One of Galeski’s top priorities is reinforcing foundational knowledge in power systems, control, and physical automation, areas he believes are critical in today’s AI-driven technological landscape.

“We can make products better, safer, and more efficiently than ever before,” said Galeski. “We can make human-centered dwellings more livable, efficient, and safe, allowing people to age gracefully in place.”

His guidance is helping the School of Engineering develop a curriculum that doesn’t just teach emerging technologies but also prepares students to apply them meaningfully to benefit humanity.



BRUCE HOLLAND HONORED WITH SIUE’S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

During the School of Engineering’s spring Commencement ceremony, SIUE awarded Bruce Holland, founder and CEO of Holland Construction Services, the Distinguished Service award—one of the University’s highest honors. The award highlights his extraordinary contributions to the institution and the region.

While introducing Holland, Dean Cem Karacal, PhD, emphasized Holland’s commitment to excellence, mentorship, and service.

“It is a privilege and a pleasure to introduce an individual whose legacy has helped shape not only the skyline of our region but also the strength of our community,” said Karacal.

In his acceptance remarks, Holland shared his journey from carpenter to CEO and his company’s guiding principle: building lasting relationships and trust with their clients. Founded in 1986 in Swansea, Ill., Holland Construction Services has become a leading general contracting firm that constructs major commercial, healthcare, educational, and residential developmental projects across the Midwest.

The School of Engineering engages in a strong, ongoing partnership with Holland Construction Services. Nearly one-third of its staff, including principal partners Mike Marchal, ’94, and Doug Weber, ’98, who both hold bachelor’s degrees in construction management. The firm actively recruits and mentors SIUE students, providing internships and professional development opportunities that often lead to long-term careers. Additionally, Holland was instrumental in the formation of the SIUE Construction Leadership Institute, an executive education program that helps prepare students and early-career professionals for leadership roles in the industry.

Holland stressed that being a mentor to others has been one of the most rewarding parts of his career, as he finds great joy in trying to pass wisdom along to the next generation of leaders. “I believe success is less about what you build and more about who you build along the way,” said Holland.

“Bruce’s legacy is built not only on steel and stone, but in lives he has touched and the communities he has helped flourish.”

*Cem Karacal, PhD
Dean, School of Engineering*



A LEGACY BUILT TO LAST

For more than 45 years, Poettker Construction has built a legacy of integrity, innovation, and excellence. Founded in 1980 in Breese, Ill., the company has grown into one of the Midwest’s top general contractors that serves clients nationwide.

Guided by lessons learned at SIUE, Poettker’s alumni-led leadership team—including Keith Poettker, Kimberly Schlautman, and Ryan Poettker—continues to give back to the University. The company hires SIUE graduates, supports campus initiatives, mentors students, and constructs state-of-the-art facilities that advance opportunities for future Cougars in engineering, business, and beyond.

Learn more about the Poettker family’s impact on SIUE
connect.siu.edu/g/fall-2025-appeal



HELPING STUDENTS LEVEL UP COMPUTER PROGRAMMING SKILLS

In August 2024, SIUE opened its new Game Development Lab, a space for creativity, innovation, and collaboration.

“The lab is full of the latest equipment,” said John Matta, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science. “It is used for game development, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence. Our students can walk in and use the equipment.”

The lab features high-end computers with Graphics Processing Units, Meta Quest headsets, a virtual reality treadmill, and Android touchscreen devices for app development and demonstrations. It has quickly become a hub for students to gather and learn together.

“You can see a community building in the lab. It is very cool to see,” Matta said.

In addition to serving as a hands-on learning environment, the lab plays a central role in building student engagement. Hackathons, senior project presentations, professional networking events, and more have been hosted in the new lab. These experiences foster collaboration and highlight the value of game development as a learning tool.

“Games are kind of the key to everything,” he explained. “They represent complicated programming. If you can make a quality game, you can do whatever an employer needs you to do.”

The lab also showcases the best student-created games, allowing visitors and prospective students to interact with work developed by students in computer science courses.

“The games our students come up with never cease to amaze me,” Matta said. “The creativity is just outstanding.”



GEPREDICTION TEAM TAKES NATIONAL TITLE



In March, a duo of civil engineering students earned the top prize in the GeoPrediction Challenge during Geotechnical Frontiers 2025, an expansive gathering of students, academics, and industry professionals in geotechnical engineering. This victory marks the first time a team has won a national competition during the tenure of Saad Ullah, PhD, PE, assistant professor of civil engineering and the team’s faculty advisor.

Absy Bronoski Mbani Illo, MS civil engineering ’25, and junior civil engineering student Brooke Rogers, accompanied by Ullah, traveled to Louisville, Ky., to attend the conference and compete in one of four National Geo-Challenge competitions. In the GeoPrediction Challenge, two-person teams from across the country were tasked with developing seepage models to predict the response of piezometers in an earthen dam subjected to changing reservoir levels.

The SIUE team analyzed the provided data, built their model, detailed their methodology, and reported their water level predictions in a written submission to the competition judges. Ten of the most accurate reports, including that of Mbani Illo and Rogers, were selected for presentation at the national meeting. After presenting their findings alongside teams from institutions like Texas A&M University and California Polytechnic State University, the judges determined that SIUE’s report was the most accurate.

“It’s a big deal for a smaller school like SIUE to win,” said Rogers. “It was cool to experience that out of all those teams: we were the best.”

“Winning first place was an incredible achievement for our team,” said Mbani Illo, who graduated with a master’s in civil engineering in May 2025. “It validated our approach, teamwork, and passion for geotechnical engineering.”

Ullah hopes this success will lead to increased opportunities for the SIUE GeoInstitute chapter and its affiliated GeoWorld and GeoPrediction teams to compete nationally and expand its presence in the geotechnical community.

JONATHAN FOWLER INDUCTED INTO SIUE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Jonathan Fowler, BS electrical engineering '10, was inducted into the 2025 SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame in recognition of his leadership, business success, and continued support of the School of Engineering. As president and co-owner of J.F. Electric, a fifth-generation family business based in Edwardsville, Fowler has helped drive significant growth and diversification of the company.

Fowler began working for the family business at the age of 15. He joined Donco Electrical Construction (now Utilitra) after graduating from SIUE, where he restructured the company's operations and brought a period of growth in both revenue and profits. In 2017, he returned home to J.F. Electric and brought the company into a new era of expansion and technological advancement.

A strong advocate for the School of Engineering, Fowler has served on the School's Advisory Board and the SIUE Foundation Board of Directors. He frequently supports advancement

initiatives and remains committed to giving back to the University and Edwardsville community. He and his family supported the expansion of SIUE's Engineering Building, among many other donors, to open a student design building known as the Fowler Student Design Center. He has been recognized individually and in part with J.F. Electric in the St. Louis Business Journal and as a member of the inaugural class of the St. Louis Titan 100.

The electrical engineering leader credits his success to teamwork, integrity, and a deep commitment to the people around him. His induction to the Hall of Fame celebrates his career built upon the values of family, vision, and dedication while highlighting his impactful contributions to the University and beyond.



GET INVOLVED WITH SIUE ENGINEERING

Alumni and industry professionals play a vital role in shaping the future of engineering education at SIUE. When you volunteer time, share expertise, or make a gift, you directly impact the next generation of innovative problem-solvers. Your support helps prepare students to become engineering change-makers who are ready to lead, create, and drive progress in a rapidly evolving world.

Make your impact, get involved, or donate today!

Mentorship and Career Readiness

- Volunteer to conduct resume reviews, mock interviews, and one-on-one career advising. Your real-world insights give students increased confidence.

Guest Speaking and Classroom Engagement

- Share your professional journey and expertise as a guest speaker in a classroom or at a student organization meeting.

Capstone and Research Collaboration

- Partner with students and faculty on senior design or research projects providing students with hands-on experience solving real-world problems.

Student Organization Involvement

- Connect with student-led organizations by serving as a judge at competitions, project sponsor, or an alumni advisor. Your guidance helps students develop leadership and project management skills.

Internships and Job Opportunities

- Offer internships, co-ops, or full-time employment opportunities with your company. These experiences are vital to student success and create a direct pipeline to your organization.

Maximize Your Financial Impact

- Research if your company offers a matching gift program and amplify the amount of financial support you offer to our students.

siue.edu/give/how-to-give/matching-gifts

Advise Departmental Leadership

- Become a member of a departmental advisory board. Our industry advisory board members provide real-world recommendations on preparing students for the workforce.



SUPPORT THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Supporting the School of Engineering creates a margin for success all our students want and deserve. Monetary gifts from alumni, industry partners, and friends enrich our students' experiences by enhancing experiential learning opportunities while creating innovative and competitive environments that give future Cougar engineers a chance to go fiercely into the world and build better communities.

Get involved or invest in our mission today!

Contact
Lisa Smith
School of Engineering Director of Development
lsmitag@siue.edu
618-650-5020

Donate Online
connect.siue.edu/g/engineering

ADVISORY BOARDS

The School of Engineering’s various Advisory Boards bring together accomplished alumni, industry professionals, and community leaders to strengthen the connections between our academic programs and the evolving demands of the engineering profession. A vital bridge between the classroom and the workforce, our board members provide guidance, share expertise, and ensure our students graduate with the skills and hands-on experience needed to excel in today’s competitive world.

School of Engineering

Jackie Becker, MBA ’17, Ameren
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Brad Elik, BS ’90, Boeing
Jonathan Fowler, BS ’10, J.F. Electric
Ryan Freeman, BS ’01, PayneCrest Electric
Jonah Gaffner, BS ’17, Google
Paul Galeski, BS ’83, HavenSmart, LLC
Melissa Gauber, BS ’03, Collins Aerospace
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Ashlee Peno, BS ’04, Special Inspections & Designs
Lora Rensing, BS ’00, Illinois Department of Transportation
Jacob Schaeffer, BS ’06, Millenia Professional Services
Kevin Williams, Wood River Drainage and Levee District
Ryan Hann, BS ’12, MS’17, Power Engineers

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Michael Bopp, BS ’24, Boeing
Dalton Brooks, BS ’19, Twilio
Lauren Brooks, BS ’19, Deloitte
Thomas Clifford, BS ’19, CGI
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Tom Lavelle, BS ’03, Keller Construction
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