



## Description of Events

### 2025-2026

*“Pi Sigma Pi strives to unite and increase the number of minority engineering students who succeed academically, lead professionally and contribute passionately to their communities.”*

## Overview

### HISTORY

In the summer of 1973, a small group of minority engineering students founded Pi Sigma Pi Minority Academic Engineering Society at The University of Texas at Austin in an effort to unite fellow minority engineers and support them in their academic and professional endeavors. It was the first and only organization of its kind in the Cockrell School of Engineering, and it remained so for nearly ten years. At that point, the UT chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) were founded and Pi Sigma Pi became the umbrella organization for both groups. In 1994, Pi Sigma Pi, NSBE, and SHPE became three separate entities. However, Pi still serves as the premier organization for the unity of all minority engineers at UT Austin.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Pi Sigma Pi Minority Academic Engineering Society strives to unite and increase the number of underrepresented minority engineering students who succeed *academically*, lead *professionally*, and contribute *passionately* to their communities.

### VISION STATEMENT

Pi Sigma Pi Minority Academic Engineering Society has the vision to empower its members through academia and personal development to become influential leaders, contributors, and innovators.

## **Pi Sigma Pi Board of Directors for 2025-2026**

### **Elected Officers**

**President: Marialaura Salinas**, 4<sup>th</sup> year Petroleum Engineering

**Vice President Internal: Fidel Zapata**, 4<sup>th</sup> year Civil Engineering

**Vice President External: Ganiat Ogidan**, 4<sup>th</sup> year Civil Engineering

**Secretary: Audrey Calderon**, 4<sup>th</sup> year Civil Engineering

**Treasurer: Christopher Medrano**, 4<sup>th</sup> year Biomedical Engineering

**Academic Excellence Coordinator: Glenda Diaz**, 4<sup>th</sup> year Aerospace Engineering

### **Appointed Officers**

**Community Service Coordinator: Alexis Rodriguez**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Mechanical Engineering

**Community Service Coordinator: Aileen Menjivar**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Mechanical Engineering

**Social Coordinator: Javier Sosa**, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Aerospace Engineering

**Social Coordinator: Jonathan Alvarado** 3<sup>rd</sup> year Environmental Engineering

**Athletics Director: Sunjae Lee**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Civil Engineering

**First Year in Pi Chair: Ashley Flores**, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Chemical Engineering

**Corporate Liaison: Emilie Baillo**, 4<sup>th</sup> year Mechanical Engineering

**Corporate Liaison: Tommy Thompson**, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Mechanical Engineering

**Publicity Chair: Kaylin Troung, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Chemical Engineering**

**Cockrell Relations Chair: Dhara Purohit, Integrated Masters Biomedical Engineering**

**Media Chair: Miguel Hernandez, Graduate 1<sup>st</sup> year Software Engineering and Systems**

**Recruitment & Retention Chair: Jessica Ramos, 4<sup>th</sup> year Civil Engineering**

**Academic Community Chair: Johan Fuentes, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Philosophy**

**Academic Health Chair: Samantha Garcia, 4<sup>th</sup> year Biology**

### **Advisor**

**Academic Advisor: [Mutiyat Ade-Salu](#), Equal Opportunity in Engineering Program**

### **Contact Us**

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## **Annual Events**

**General Meetings:** Pi Sigma Pi (PSP) hosts six general meetings throughout the school year, three each semester. The Pi officer board uses these general meetings to provide members with current information on Pi-NSBE-SHPE, the Cockrell School of Engineering, and campus-wide events, while encouraging interaction with corporate representatives and fellow members. Members are informed of the resources available to help them succeed academically, such as free one-on-one tutoring, our online test bank, and peer mentoring information. Our average attendance is around 60 people at each in-person meeting.

**3.0 Dinners:** Pi Sigma Pi members who receive a 3.0 GPA or higher from the previous semester or who have maintained a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher are rewarded with an invitation to a dinner to recognize their achievements. Typically supported by corporate partners, industry representatives are invited to attend the dinner and network with our members. The 3.0 dinner encourages students to attain and maintain a high GPA throughout the year.

**PSP Kick-off and Gals & Pals Night:** These events offer the opportunity for corporate representatives to connect with Pi members in a social, interpersonal environment. At each event, corporate representatives are welcome to give a presentation about their company and answer questions. They are then invited to network with our members through our scheduled activities. Past activities include water balloon fights, relay races, self-defense courses, roller-skating, and video-gaming. Events can be altered for an online environment, if needed. PSP Kick-off is an event hosted at the beginning of each semester. Both current and prospective members are introduced to the year's upcoming events, followed by team-building activities afterward. Gals and Pals' Night provides members with a social outing to empower and celebrate gender minorities in engineering with an opportunity to meet successful professional engineers and faculty.

**Lunch and Learns, Corporate Tours, and Corporate Socials:** These events allow our members to hear representatives' present topics that can contribute to their leadership and professional development. It is a great way for our members to get to know companies and their representatives in a smaller setting. Lunch and learns provide the opportunity for members to listen to a company representative talk about leadership or professional development.

Corporate tours provide members the opportunity to tour and witness first-hand the company's facilities. Corporate Socials allow members to network with corporate representatives in a fun professional environment. At these events, members are given the chance to ask any questions they may have about the industry. Events in the past have included Top Golf, go-karting, and mini-golfing. Average attendance is about 15 people.

**Community Service, Socials & Athletic Events:** The purpose of these events is to provide members with a relaxed social atmosphere, while bonding, developing teamwork skills, and

giving back to our community. Each event occurs 1-2 times a month. Community service days include outreach events such as Girl Day, Young Engineers and Scientists (YES) Day, and Liberation Through Education (LTE) Day, where students are invited to visit the Cockrell School of Engineering at UT Austin to learn about various STEM Fields. The friendships that are formed during these events are valuable for the development of a support system that will carry them throughout the year. Members will meet new people and participate in various friendly competitions. Pi Sigma Pi members work hard throughout the academic year, so our events are designed to provide them with an enjoyable break and leave them with memorable experiences.

**Study Nights:** Weekly study nights provide an evening for members of SHPE/NSBE/Pi (SNaP) to come together and study in a comfortable setting. Members have a friendly and fun atmosphere where they can enjoy a sense of community at the university while developing a stronger academic foundation. In addition to the tutors we provide, study groups formed at the Pi Study Nights help our members develop effective and efficient study habits with others. The purpose of study nights is to create an academic family that allows our members to study, grow and succeed together. Snacks are also provided to stimulate the mind and encourage members to strive for academic excellence. We serve an average of 40 students each Monday.

**Mindful Moments:** Biweekly events for members of Pi to come together for positive mental health activities, meditation, and discussions. Hosted by the Academic Excellence chair, our members will have a safe and welcoming environment for students to destress and talk about issues that affect our member's well-being and daily life over activities like guided meditation and painting. Industry representatives are invited to join us in the activities and provide insight on mental wellness in the workplace. PSP stresses the importance of living a healthy student life, which includes balancing your physical, mental, and social well-being.