The Women in Science & Engineering Program’s Launching Your Career Symposium is the only professional development and networking event specifically targeting women and gender minorities in STEM at the University of Arizona.

This year’s symposium was held on September 23-24, 2022 and featured 20 industry and academic partners who offered sessions aimed at helping STEM students and early career professionals gain the knowledge, skills, and relationships necessary to successfully launch their STEM careers. A Professional Mixer opened the Symposium and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Lekelia Jenkins closed the event with a lecture about her own journey as a marine sustainability scientist and workshop on mentorship development. Panel topics included: financial literacy, salary negotiation, public speaking, student leadership, and the intersection of business and the STEM fields. A generous thank you to our primary event sponsors, W.L. Gore & Associates, A2Tech, and the American Association of University Women - Tucson Branch. For more information about the symposium, see here.

**UA Arizona Affiliations:**
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: 33.4%
- College of Medicine, Pharmacy and Public Health: 9.5%
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences: 11.7%
- Other: 1.1%
- College of Engineering: 16.7%
- College of Science: 44.7%

**Student Impact & Outcomes**
*Among students who completed exit survey (n=123)*

- **100%** felt LYC was an effective professional development event, would participate again, and would recommend it to others.
- **100%** felt LYC helped them gain concrete skills that will be useful along their STEM journey and into the workforce.
- **94%** The symposium made me feel more motivated and more confident in my ability to succeed in STEM.
- **94%** The symposium increased the likelihood that I will pursue more career development opportunities.
- **87%** The symposium increased my knowledge of resources and opportunities available to women in STEM.
- **75%** The symposium made me feel more comfortable at the University of Arizona.

**The Most Valuable Part of LYC...**

"The networking was eye opening for me. My skills are valuable and my efforts and experiences are valued by organizations. There are other people that care about the things I care about. I felt like I belonged and I was valued.” - UA Student Participant

"I met with a number of students who were interested in our services and signed up for them, and I also was able to network with a number of people at the other tables. I made some connections that can benefit students and our office serves, so that was great!” - UA Staff Participant