Malini Natarajarathinam

Dr. Natarajarathinam, along with a student in Industrial Distribution (ID), founded Society of Women in Industrial Distribution (SWID) in Spring 2013. SWID is a student organization that focuses on personal and professional development of women majoring in ID. Malini’s service-learning project focuses on engaging female students in Industrial Distribution (SWID members) with process improvement projects with the City of Bryan. The current idea is for SWID member groups (with 2 or 3 students) to work on projects such as garbage truck routing, capacity planning at shelters, scheduling of community events to increase participation and coverage, school bus scheduling and routing, etc.

Involving with community projects helps the students apply the knowledge that they gained in school to non-traditional settings. This increases the engagement of female students and instills a sense of giving back in them. After testing this pilot initiative, she would like to provide this experience to a broader set of students as a part of a class.

Malini received her Bachelor of Engineering from Anna University, her MS in Industrial Engineering from Auburn University, her MA in Management Science and MS in Applied Statistics from The University of Alabama, and her PhD in Supply Chain Management from The University of Alabama. She joined the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution in 2007. She teaches classes on strategic relationships for industrial distributors and IT management for industrial distributors. Her research focuses on improving coordination and increasing value added in supply chains.