

Gannon University Diversity Action Grant Mechanical Engineering Day

The ASME student chapter at Gannon University received a Diversity Action Grant. The DAG was used to subsidize the cost of Gannon University's first Mechanical Engineering Day. The objective of the program was to introduce and attract a larger population of middle school students, specifically women and minorities, to the mechanical engineering field. The day was supported by faculty of the Gannon University Mechanical Engineering Department. Middle school students participated in several projects including the design and construction of an egg-drop module. The goal was to design a structure, using the least amount of materials, which could prevent an egg from breaking when dropped from a height of eight feet. Other demonstrations performed included boiling and condensations experiments, viscosity measurements, and measurement of flow rate in an open channel. The final project for the middle school students was a beam design. Students had to design and build a beam out of cardboard that could withstand an assigned max load. The Diversity Action Grant was the main source of funding for Gannon's Mechanical Engineering Day. The event was a success and helped to open the eyes of middle school students to the world of mechanical engineering.

Summary

Partnering Organizations:	Department of Mechanical Engineering, Gannon University, Society of Women Engineers
Overall Attendance:	40
Girls:	17
Minorities:	1
Grant:	\$1500
Budget for Event:	\$1867.99

Survey

- Based on survey results, students left the event with an increased knowledge of mechanical engineering.
- Most students would recommend the event to their friends interested in engineering.
- The activities were well structured
- The egg drop module and the beam design were most popular
- 33 out of 40 students said engineering was fun
- 18 students said they would consider becoming an engineer
- 20 students are unsure if they would consider becoming an engineer