ASME Diversity Action Grant Report

ASME student sections that receive funding through the Diversity Action Grant (DAG) program must complete and submit this report to ASME's Center for Leadership & Diversity by no later than June 1 of the academic year in which the project was undertaken. Any unused funds remaining must be returned to ASME with the report. ASME student sections that fail to submit a timely report may not be eligible to receive DAG funding for future projects. Additional information regarding the project, including photographs, copies of marketing materials and additional text, may be included with this project report.

Date: ____May 29, 2008_____
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Summary of DAG Project
ASME DAG Funding: $_1250.00_____
Total Project Budget: $ _unknown_____
Partnering Organizations: _Engineering Open House and Gender and Diversity in Engineering Committee
Attendance: Total _~500_____
Women _~300_____
Minorities _~100_____
ASME Section/Region Reps _3_____

Project Description:

The ASME Student Section formed a partnership with two committees: Gender and Diversity in Engineering Committee (for Women in Engineering Day) and Open House. Women in Engineering Day promotes all disciplines of engineering to high school girls. Open House is an event where grade 12 students that have been accepted into engineering have the chance to visit different stations to learn more about the nine branches of engineering offered at the University of Calgary.

For both events, a design competition was organized and sponsored by the ASME student section through the Diversity Action Grant.

In the case of open house, the goal of the competition was to create and build a device to launch marshmallows the furthest horizontal distance possible (see appendix I for pictures from design competition). For Women in Engineering Day, students built a robot using Lego that follows along the side of a wall, and the goal was to build and program the robot to perform this task as fast as possible.

The supply for the competitions, prizes, and promotional posters were bought using the DAG funding.

Project Goal/Objective and How Achieved

The objective for the project is to promote mechanical engineering to young women entering post-secondary education and also to grade 12 students that have been accepted into first year engineering at the University of Calgary. By exposing the students to a simple engineering design challenge, it introduces them to an example of applying engineering concepts. Having the competition run by engineering students allowed the high school students to ask questions and relate to engineers.

Moreover, the project promoted mechanical engineering to a diverse group of students. Between the grade 12 students from the Calgary area and the women that attended the women in engineering day, we were be able to educate a variety of people about mechanical engineering. Students do not chose their major at the University of Calgary until after their first year, so promoting mechanical engineering to the early accepted students helps to sway their decision to pick mechanical engineering. Through such activities, the faculty of engineering at the University of Calgary has one of the highest percentages of female students of all Canadian universities.

Evaluation of Program's Success:

The overall success of the design competition was assessed by asking the students to fill out feedback forms. The feedback forms evaluated the event as a whole, but specific questions will be asked to determine if the students that participated in the design competition enjoyed the event and if it increased their

interest in mechanical engineering. In order to encourage students to fill out the survey, all the returned surveys were entered into a draw for a prize.
Success of the two events was also evaluated by the involvement of the student body. During the allotted design time, two representatives from ASME UofC section, walked around and observed the students working. From this completely subjective analysis we were able to see almost all students involved in the design project. We were privy to hearing design tactics and the intricate team work that went in to producing the marshmallow launchers.

Overall, the two design competitions have been deemed a success. Both events were well attended and fully participated in. They gave students a first hand experience of an engineering problem and forced them to think of the solution based on problem restrictions. It was a great experience to see and interact with young, future engineers.

Other Comments/Suggestions:

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By no later than June 1, submit this report to:
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Attn: Marina Stenos
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APPENDIX I