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: August 23, 2009
Student Section: Lamar University
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Summary of DAG Project
ASME DAG Funding: $ 1000
Total Project Budget: $ 1500
Partnering Organizations: Lamar University Mechanical Engineering Dept.
Attendance: Total 25
Women 4
Minorities 7
ASME Section/Region Reps 3
Project Description:

Local high school senior students particularly female and minority students with an interest in science and mathematics were invited to participate in a program called Mechanical Engineering Day. Several activities took place during the program which allowed the invited students to learn about mechanical engineering in the academia, as a student, prospect employee, and as a senior professional. The program began with an introduction to mechanical engineering as a field of study. A senior professor presented the two main branches of

mechanical engineering and what a student would expect to learn at the Lamar University Mechanical Engineering Department. Two teams of graduating mechanical engineering seniors presented their concept, design phase, barriers that they overcame, and up-to-date progress on their senior design project. The Mini Baja Team displayed to the students their almost complete competition vehicle. The Escaladder Team presented their accomplishments on the ladder for the NASA Lunar Lander competition. The students were reminded of the engineering principles used to complete their senior design project. A three-term co-op student shared with the high school students his experiences in the co-operative education program. He shared its many advantages and invited them to participate when they enroll in an engineering program. A 25+ year engineering professional shared his rewarding experiences as an engineer and a few words of wisdom that would make the prospect engineering students successful as students and as engineering professionals.

The students were also taken on a tour of the mechanical engineering lab where they were shown basic engineering systems. They also toured the mechanical engineering computer lab where they were shown computer programs typically used by ME such as ProE and Mathcad. The students also participated in several design competitions such as the tallest structure with straws, building an aluminum boat, and build a bridge competition. The students were able to learn from their designs the importance of structural design, materials of construction, working with limited resources, and basic physics and engineering principles and their applications. The activities strongly emphasized team building and working with people that they were not familiar with.

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Project Goal/Objective and How Achieved: _____

The goal of this program was to develop students' interest in the mechanical engineering field and to learn the responsibilities and career opportunities that are available for mechanical engineers and students with an emphasis in females and minority students. Another goal was to help Lamar University recruit women and minorities in mechanical engineering, and to promote and encourage intellectual curiosity and innovativeness related to mechanical engineering. These goals were achieved by inviting guest speakers to attend the program and present to students basic but valuable information about the mechanical engineering career as a student and as a professional and to answer questions that they had about mechanical engineering. Lunch, drinks and snacks were provided so the students did not have to leave the building.

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Evaluation of Program's Success: _____

The program was successful as the invited students left with a better understanding of what will be expected of them as a mechanical engineer and some even expressed interest in choosing mechanical engineer as their major subject of study and future career.

Other Comments/Suggestions:_____

The students were very appreciative of the opportunity presented to them to learn about mechanical engineering and to have visited the Lamar University campus. The student sponsors expressed their appreciation and wanted to be considered for future Mechanical Engineering Days at Lamar.

A link to the article written for the Mechanical Engineering Department's website on this event is http://dept.lamar.edu/mechanical/meweb/frontpage/EventsNews-ME.Day2009.htm
Photographs were taken during the event. These photographs may be viewed by visiting the following link
http://dept.lamar.edu/mechanical/meweb/frontpage/ME%20Day%20Photos/index.html

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By no later than June 1, submit this report to:
ASME Center for Leadership & Diversity
Attn: Marina Stenos
Three Park Avenue
New York, NY10016-5990
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Fax: 1.212.591.7856
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Mechanical Engineering Day at Lamar University

Wednesday April 8th 2009 9:00am – 3:00pm

Schedule of Events

Time	Event	Duration
9:00am – 9:20am	Registration and light breakfast	20 mins.
9:20am – 9:30am	Welcome - Dr. Hsing-Wei Chu, Dr. Ken Aung, Ms. Julie Daspit	10 mins.
9:30am – 9:45am	ME Professor Presentation - Dr. Paul R. Corder	15 mins.
9:45am – 10:00am	Senior Design Project Presentation – Mini Baja Team	15 mins.
10:00am – 10:15am	Co-op Program Presentation – Ryan Thompson	15 mins.
10:15am – 10:30am	Tallest structure with straws	15 mins.
10:30am – 10:45am	Engineering Professional Presentation - Madhu Panchal	15 mins.
10:45am – 11:00am	Senior Design Project Presentation – Escaladder Team	15 mins.
11:00am – 11:30pm	Building an Aluminum Boat	30 mins.
11:30am – 12:30pm	Lunch	60 mins.
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lab tours (half to Cherry - half to Lucas, switch after 30 mins)	60 mins.
1:30pm – 1:50pm	Poster Presentation - Senior Design Teams, SWE, and ASME	20 mins.
1:50pm – 2:40pm	Build a Bridge Competition	50 mins.
2:40pm – 3:00pm	Awards Ms. Julie Daspit and Mr. Jeremy Hayes	20 mins.

Lamar University			
ME Day 2009			
Budget			
Date	**Category**	**Vendor**	**Amount**
4/3/2009	Food*	Sam's	21.84
4/3/2009	Food*	Sam's	73.49
4/5/2009	Competition Materials	Wal-Mart	25.93
4/5/2009	Competition Materials	Dollar General	10.39
4/6/2009	Competition Materials	HEB	14.73
4/7/2009	T-shirts	Kampus Korner	358.20
4/8/2009	Food*	Subway	149.49
4/8/2009	Food*	Market Basket	11.91
4/25/2009	Calculators	Market Warehouse	329.85
		Subtotal	**995.83**
4/2/2009	Competition Prices	Supply Center	553.56
		Total	**1549.39**
*Many additional food related items were donated by faculty, staff, and students in the			
Mechanical Engineering department			