



For Release

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Industry joins forces with MESA to train future STEM professionals

40 students from San Diego State University Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program attended Industry led Training Academies to build on their soft and technical skills. SDSU MESA students were joined by community college students from the MESA sister programs at San Diego City College and Southwestern College; as part of the San Diego MESA Alliance.

Industry partners at Northrop Grumman, SSC Pacific (SPAWAR) and Solar Turbines, exposed a diverse group of STEM students to leadership and technical trainings typically provided to their entry level employees.

During these trainings, students engaged in VHDL Software sessions, Drone design and challenge, IQ vs EQ sessions, Raspberry Pi hands on projects and department case studies. Several trainings ended with students giving mini presentations pertaining to information learned and experiences gained. In the case of Solar Turbines and SPAWAR, students were given tours of various departments and research labs; which allowed the head of those labs to provide a brief overview of what their engineers do on a daily basis. In the case of Northrop Grumman, students attended sessions on Saturdays to learn new material. At some sessions, students had the opportunity to have their resumes critiqued and spoke with recruiters.

“Out of classroom engagements add to student motivation and training; providing skills needed for students to develop as professionals and become more competitive upon graduation,” said Natasha Celise, SDSU MESA Director.

The MESA program is grateful for these collaborations and thanks industry partners for their continued support; particularly:

Adam Straubinger, Engineer at Northrop Grumman (SDSU MESA Alumnus, class of 2007)

Daisy Galeana, Engineer at Solar Turbines (SDSU MESA Alumna, class of 1998)

Yolanda Tanner, STEM Postsecondary Outreach at SPAWAR–Pacific

About MESA

MESA promotes STEM success for more than 28,000 educationally disadvantaged secondary, community college and four-year college students in California through project-based learning, academic counseling and exposure to STEM careers, so they can graduate from college with math-based degrees. Seventy percent of MESA high school graduates statewide went directly to college after graduation compared to 48 percent of all California graduates. Sixty percent of MESA students go on to math, science or engineering majors. Ninety-seven percent of MESA community college transfer students go to college as STEM majors.

For more information about the SDSU MESA program visit <http://mep.sdsu.edu>