

# MEP Funding Initiatives

*The success of MEP students directly reflects the support given by industry. Below are some of our initiatives and services provided to the students within MEP and the College of Engineering to enhance their academic and professional growth.*

**MEP Tutoring:** Serving not only MEP students, but also any student within the College of Engineering who struggles, MEP provides free, drop-in one-on-one or group tutoring in math, science, and engineering subjects. Our tutors are trained to meet the needs of a student's learning style, all the while providing them the tools to become independent learners. The lab runs fall, winter, and spring quarters for 10 weeks. Annual Cost: \$50,000

**MEP Study Room/Computer Lab Renovation:** Our study spaces provide MEP students with a comfortable environment to work together on their coursework. Our current goal is to make these spaces more study-friendly. Updating our computers, purchasing new white boards/desks/chairs that facilitate team-learning, and converting the Study Lounge into a "smart room" (buying a projector/screen) for industry to host events, would convert our current spaces into a multi-purpose interactive environment for the betterment of students and our partners. Renovation cost: \$20,000

**MEP Design Competition:** One common theme that arose during our Industry Advisory Board meeting was the need for freshmen, sophomore, and new transfer students to start seeing how their courses apply to the real world. We would love to team up with an industry partner to create a multidisciplinary project that can teach new students the engineering design process, all the while expose them to industry and assist them in getting a head start on building their resume. Cost would be discussed by MEP and industry partner regarding the type of project they would like to provide the groups.

**Scholarship Opportunities & Study Abroad Support:** Research has shown that alleviating financial stress for first-generation college students increases their retention. As most MEP students are low income, financial assistance may allow them to buy their textbooks in advance, or work less hours throughout the quarter and focus more on their academics. In addition, studying abroad brings many lasting benefits that our students carry with them throughout their personal and professional life, such as acquiring cultural-awareness, leadership, independence, adaptability, problem solving, and cross-cultural communication skills required in today's workforce.

**Poly Pals/Transfer Advising Program:** In collaboration with the Engineering Advising Center, MEP assists in the implementation of programs that assist new, underrepresented engineering students adjust to the rigor of Cal Poly engineering. Poly Pals is our mentoring program, matching brand new students to returning students within their same major. The program holds events and sends reminders to the mentor/mentees that can bolster their academic, professional, and social experience here at Cal Poly. In addition, the Transfer Advising Program (TAP) has a mission to increase retention and graduation rates of transfer students by easing the transition to Cal Poly through programming which enhances academic, social and professional growth. Through TAP, we are able to get new transfer students career fair-ready within their first three weeks of their first quarter. Annual cost for Poly Pals and TAP: \$5,000 each.

**Travel for SHPE and NSBE Conferences:** The National SHPE and NSBE Conferences are the largest Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American engineering career fair and technical conference in the United States. Our chapters are highly encouraged to attend. On average, SHPE sends about 25 students and NSBE about 10 thanks to company sponsorship. Many of the students acquire interviews, internships, and full-time positions from attending the conferences. Annual cost per student: \$750