

MEP Funding Initiatives

The success of MEP students directly reflects the support given by industry. In addition to participating in our flagship events, 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.

ESS Intern: Serving not only MEP students, but also any undergraduate within the College of Engineering, the ESS intern meets regularly to assist in students moving within their curriculum. With a particular focus within MEP, the ESS Intern provides academic coaching to MEP students on AP, assists with our communications, and participates in leading events and workshops, freeing up time for MEP staff to meet with students in more dire need and help the College on more “big picture” diversity initiatives. This “Earn by Doing” position will be recruited from Cal Poly master’s programs and will assist in the 19-20 academic year. Annual cost: \$9,000

MEP Leads: A concept we came up with during the MEP IAB meeting as a way build community amongst peers was to create MEP Leads. MEP Leads are students who are actively engaged in MEP and will help us support and welcome new students into the program. Leads will hold office hours in the MEP, assist in running the Food for Thought Series, and attend events with the intention of supporting student in their networking. Serving as an unofficial mentor program, the Leads provide guidance and openness to new students who may be looking for an ally within engineering. Our goal is to offer two students part time jobs each quarter, plus funds for Lead events. Annual cost: \$4,000

Food for Thought Series: In efforts to build community among new MEP students, our Food for Thought series will provide topical conversation on transitioning to Cal Poly, academic support, and professional growth. These hour-long guided conversations with small groups will be lead in the Study Lounge by MEP Leads and Interns. Industry have an opportunity to “brand” this new series by sponsoring food costs for student attendees thus enticing students to participate and saving their much needed funds on meals. Annual cost: \$8,500

Leadership Retreat: For the past three years MEP has teamed up with a company to take SHPE and NSBE leaders on a team-building activity. In efforts to keep morale high within hard-working officers, this mid-year event provides an opportunity to brainstorm and plan for the rest of the academic year and beyond. In addition to funding the event, company participation the day-of is highly encouraged. Annual cost: \$3,000

Book Loan Program, CP Cares Funding, and Scholarships: Research has shown that alleviating financial stress for first-generation college students increases their retention. As most MEP students are low income, financial assistance towards scholarships and our Book Loan Program may allow them to buy their textbooks in advance, or work less hours to focus more on their academics. In addition, MEP is working with the Dean of Students Office to provide funds through CP Cares, a program in which students who have the smallest to largest needs can apply for support. Funding dependent on interest.

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 30 students and NSBE sends about 10 with company sponsorship. Many of the students acquire interviews, internships, and full-time positions from attending. Annual cost per student: \$750