

# 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 regular communications, and participates in leading events and workshops, freeing up time for full-time MEP staff to meet with students in more dire need and help the College on more “big picture” diversity initiatives. Unable to fund for an intern for the 17-18 academic year, this “Earn by Doing” position will be recruited from Cal Poly master’s programs and will assist in the 18-19 academic year. Annual cost: \$8,000

**MEP Study Space Renovation:** Our new study spaces provide MEP students with a comfortable environment to work together on their coursework. This year we purchased new tables and chairs to make the space more study-friendly; students can now easily move tables around the room to work individually or in groups. However, we ran out of funds to buy additional tables for our growing population. Cost for ten tables: \$6,000

**“Brown Bag Lunches” (Name TBD):** In efforts to build community among new MEP students, our inaugural “Brown Bag Lunch” fall 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 and ESS support staff. 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: \$3,500

**Leadership Retreat:** For the past two 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

**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 thanks to company sponsorship. Many of the students acquire interviews, internships, and full-time positions from attending. Annual cost per student: \$750

**Scholarship Opportunities, Book Loan Program, and 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 towards scholarships and our new Book Loan Program 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. Funding dependent on interest.