

Promoting Graduate Education for Hispanic and Other Low Income Students

Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$69,500

Project Director

Name: Behnam Bahr
Title: Associate Dean
College: College of Engineering

Co-Project Director

Name: Lily Gossage
Title: Director, MEP
Department: College of Engineering

Co-Project Director

Name: N/A
Title:
Department:

Project Description

Cal Poly Pomona is a national leader in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented undergraduate engineering students, and is one of the nation's largest Hispanic-serving engineering schools. However, few of CPP's engineering students presently pursue graduate studies, with Hispanic and low income students comprising a disproportionately small percentage of this number.

Pursuant to CPP's major goals of providing students with an advantage as career-ready graduates, and of embracing change through teaching, learning, and scholarship that continually addresses the needs of a diverse culture and a dynamic economy. The College of Engineering has created a sustainable student success program, Maximizing Engineering Potentials (MEP), that inspires and empowers its underrepresented engineering students to successfully complete their B.S. degrees. The mission of the MEP has been recruitment and retention of undergraduate students and their successful completion of their degree. The College has not paid attention to graduate students or even encouraged the MEP students to pursue a graduate program.

The goal of this project is to expand the mission of the MEP program to include graduate students. By encouraging high performance students from the disadvantaged/underrepresented groups to continue on to graduate studies through active mentorship by our faculty, the graduate program will attract more students from the above groups. To sustain the program, we plan to engage industry to directly support graduate projects that are relevant to industry and which train students to be valuable future employees. In addition, longer term collaboration with multiple industries will be undertaken to develop a permanent endowment support for the program.

The funding from Kellogg Legacy Project Endowment will be used as seed money to facilitate the establishment of this essential pathway for underrepresented, Hispanic, and other low income students to pursue graduate studies.