

“Maximizing Engineering Potential: “Learn by Doing, Achieve by Excellence” - Supporting Minority & Women Engineering Students”

Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$20,000

Project Director

Name: Lily Gossage
Title: Director
College: Maximizing Engineering Potential

Project Description

Under new leadership, MEP: Center for Gender, Diversity & Student Excellence (acronymously and formerly known as “Maximizing Engineering Potential”) has undergone several changes. Given the changing student demographics, rise in minority student enrollment, concerted effort toward increasing the participation of women students, essential changes were warranted. Undergoing program re-alignment, MEP is changing to fit the needs of the College and working toward meeting the CSU system-wide Graduation Initiative; new goals and strategies for supporting service expansion and engaging a greater number and diversity of students via a new MEP: Center for Gender, Diversity & Student Excellence are underway. Student persistence and time-to-degree completion rates are systematically addressed via several institutional-based campus resources and services—including the Learning Resource Center, the Career Center, and other service units. Pedagogical evidence for student success already exists in MEP’s use of several high-impact practices (HIPs), such as peer mentoring and summer bridge. While the College of Engineering recognizes the importance of focusing efforts on under-represented minority (URM) students (where attrition continues to be steepest and graduation rates lowest), the staffing-to-student ratio is inadequate to meet program goals. Currently, MEP employs one director, one administrative service coordinator, and one SSP1A trainee. This project plans to dedicate an additional support staff, an academic intervention and student success specialist, to pilot an early identification and monitored student success tracking system for at-risk students. To be able to support a greater number of students, MEP must build on the existing strengths and collaborate with other offices. Funding will also be used to enhance a 3-day summer bridge program called, “Engineering in Your Future” and provide for a Near-Peer Mentoring program (to engage high-performing sophomores as mentors).