

# Expansion of MEP Student Success Programs and Services

## Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$ 60,000

### Project Director

Name: Milton Randle  
Title: Director  
Department: Maximizing Engineering Potential

### Co-Project Director

Name:  
Title:  
Department:

### Co-Project Director

Name:  
Title:  
Department:

## Project Description

The Maximizing Engineering Program (MEP) of the College of Engineering (CoE) requests funding in the amount of \$500,000 for a 3-year period to enhance the retention and graduation of specifically underrepresented minority engineering students by expanding our key academic components, the Academic Excellence Workshops and the MEP Orientation Course, as well establish an endowed MEP Scholarship specifically to high achieving incoming freshmen.

Originally termed the Minority Engineering Program, the Maximizing Engineering Potential program was created to increase the supply of underrepresented minority engineering graduates. CPP leads the State in the enrollment and graduation of Hispanic underrepresented minority engineering graduates due to the success of our MEP program.

At the core of the MEP program are four organizational components that build MEP students into a strong, academic community. The first is the QUEST Summer Bridge Program for incoming freshmen. The second is a series of formal orientation courses for new freshmen that span the entire academic year. The third component is our Academic Excellence Workshop program, which clusters MEP students in common sections of their chemistry, math and physics courses and requires group study of the students who are clustered in these classes. The fourth is a student study center which serves as the focus of the MEP academic community. In augmentation to these four components, MEP provides the following activities and programs to its students: advising and counseling, professional development through student organizations, scholarships, and employment opportunities in coordination with the MEP Industry Advisory Board.

With the three-year Kellogg funding, we propose to expand the success of our Academic Excellence Workshops (AEW) to the rigorous gateway courses in each of the seven engineering departments. Each engineering department would conduct an AEW workshop, in coordination with MEP, with the commitment to institutionalize the AEW as a FTE laboratory course at the end of the funding period. AEW's produce participants who have higher GPAs, retention and graduation rates than non participants.

Kellogg funding would also support our offering a Transfer Orientation Course to incoming transfer engineering students in order to enhance their retention, timely graduation and professional development, with the emphasis being placed on career development activities, undergraduate research, graduate school and employment opportunities. Transfer students will enroll in the course through the MEP recruitment and orientation process.

The MEP Endowed Scholarship would cover full tuition and fees of outstanding incoming freshmen who apply but have not yet committed to attend CPP. The first recipients of the scholarship would take place year two of the funding cycle. The total funded 3-year endowment would be \$392,200. Matching funding from industry partners will be a targeted objective.