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## Cal Poly to Extend Engineering Summer Camp to Middle Schoolers with \$15,000 Grant

SAN LUIS OBISPO – This year, Cal Poly will extend its engineering summer camp, Engineering Possibilities in College (EPIC), to middle school students.

Previously limited to high school students, EPIC is a week-long camp designed to attract students to engineering, especially those who may not have considered it as an area of study or a future career.

Expansion of the program will be facilitated with a \$15,000 donation from the Goodrich Foundation.

EPIC will use the grant to create a comprehensive career camp experience designed specifically for middle school students. The young campers will be immersed in hands-on labs and activities that include robots, spaceships, solar cars and cities of the future. The program will be offered in an informal environment that includes a spectrum of games, play, and challenging activities that foster creativity, exploration, teamwork and personal empowerment. The students will also get tours of Cal Poly Engineering facilities and local engineering companies.

"At Goodrich, a key area of community focus is to encourage young people to study STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines," said Marc Duvall, president of Goodrich Aerostructures in Chula Vista, Calif. "Studies show that students often find their career interests during the formative middle school years. EPIC is strongly aligned with the Goodrich Foundation's commitment to start early to connect students with science and engineering."

Cal Poly Engineering Dean Debra Larson said EPIC is successful because of its multi-faceted approach that makes engineering fun and stimulating for students.

"EPIC offers students the fun of summer camp, the inspiration of a university setting and the opportunity to explore what their future might look like," said Larson. "It's a highly participatory, Learn by Doing environment where they can 'test drive' their skills, explore a range of interests, and gain confidence in how they might fit into the exciting world of engineering and technology."

For online registration and more information on EPIC, see <a href="www.epic.calpoly.edu">www.epic.calpoly.edu</a>.

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