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Cal Poly Women's Engineering Program Receives National Award as a Model Program

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN) presented its annual Women in Engineering Program Award to Cal Poly Women's Engineering Program (WEP). Helene Finger, Cal Poly WEP director, accepted the award June 11 at the WEPAN 2014 Change Leader Forum in Minneapolis.

The award recognizes an institution that serves as a model program by sharing its experiences and materials, hosting pre-college or retention activities/projects, improving the educational environment for women in engineering, and offering professional guidance to students and/or faculty who seek careers in engineering and science.

Established in 1987, WEP is credited with increasing the female undergraduate enrollment in the College of Engineering from 11.8 percent to 22.4 percent in the past nine years. WEP provides resources and support to students and works with faculty members and alumnae on recruitment, retention and career connections for female engineering students. WEP also hosts engineering outreach programs. Last year, WEP hosted 32 events and connected with more than 3,500 students through activities targeting K-12 students.

About the Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN)

WEPAN is a catalyst for transforming culture in engineering education and the workforce to promote the inclusion and success of diverse communities of women. It has 880 members based in 140 engineering schools, corporations, government agencies and not-for-profit organizations. Each year, WEPAN's engineering school members reach 43,900 women engineering students in the U.S., roughly 60 percent of the female engineering student population, with a range of retention-focused programming. WEPAN Institutional Members average 15 percent higher enrollment of women in engineering than non-member schools.

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