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Cal Poly to Celebrate National Engineers Week Feb. 19-25

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly engineering students will ignite the imaginations of area youngsters during National Engineers Week, Feb. 19-25.

Campus groups will host an Engineering Club Fair at Farmer’s Market in downtown San Luis Obispo on Thursday, Feb. 23, and will hold a wide variety of other activities on campus throughout the week.

Founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Engineers Week is celebrated annually by thousands of engineers, engineering students, teachers and leaders in government and business.

“We hope students from every major will check out the National Engineers Week competitions and participate in the blood drive,” said materials engineering student Gino Valderrama, a Cal Poly Engineers Week activities commissioner. “Our aim is for everyone on campus to recognize how engineers directly affect their lives and, of course, have a little fun between classes.”

The college is particularly excited about introducing its new dean, Dr. Mohammad Noori, said Tony Guntermann, chair of the university’s Engineering Student Council, which is sponsoring the Cal Poly event. “Dean Noori will be bowling with us on Monday night - rumor has it that he’s going to ‘break through’ a banner at 8:30 p.m.,” Guntermann said. “And on Tuesday, we’re hosting a special college wide town hall meeting to give students the opportunity to ask him about the future of the college.”

During Lockheed Martin Day on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 007, the aerospace company will raffle prizes every hour and present displays that include a STARDUST Satellite, which returned to Earth in January; a Thaad Missile; and VIPER demonstrator. “This is really a chance to interact with Lockheed Martin engineers and gain an insider’s view of one of the world’s leading technology companies,” Guntermann said.

Continuing an annual tradition, members of Cal Poly’s nationally recognized chapter of the Society of Women Engineers will offer local fourth-graders hands-on engineering and science programs at local schools throughout the week.

“Our mission is to open the doors of the profession to young people, especially girls, who remain underrepresented in engineering and technical fields,” says Helene Finger, director of the Women’s Engineering Program at Cal Poly. “With our SWE members serving as real-life role models, the program definitely plants a seed about career and college opportunities. Hopefully, we’ll help these girls and boys to envision themselves as engineers and computer scientists.”

The community will have the chance to enjoy interactive engineering activities at an Engineering Club Fair at San Luis Obispo’s Farmer’s Market on Thursday, Feb. 23. Displays will show off student-built engineering projects, such as the legendary “Concrete Canoe.”

Here’s a list of a week’s worth of activities:
Monday, Feb. 20
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., information booth at Dexter Lawn
6:30-9 p.m. free pizza and bowling, and “Meet the Dean” (8:30 p.m.), McPhee’s in the University Union

Tuesday, Feb. 21
“Dress Like an Engineer Day”
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., information booth at Dexter Lawn
10-11 a.m., engineering clubs’ Ballistics Competition, Dexter Lawn
11 a.m.-noon, Dean’s Town Hall Meeting, Building 007
11 a.m.-3 p.m., blood drive, Mott Gym Lawn
5 p.m.-9 p.m., Society of Women Engineers dinner with the dean

Wednesday, Feb. 22
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., information booth at Dexter Lawn
10 a.m.-2 p.m., boxing competition, Dexter Lawn

Thursday, Feb. 23
Off Campus: SWE Fourth Grade Outreach
9 a.m., Pacheco Elementary School, Susan Fassiotto, teacher
7 p.m., Farmers’ Market, Downtown San Luis Obispo

On Campus:
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., information booth at Dexter Lawn
11 a.m.-4 p.m., Lockheed Martin Day, Building 007

Friday, Feb. 25
Off Campus: SWE Fourth Grade Outreach
10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Monarch Grove Elementary School, Russ Rayburn, teacher
11 a.m.-noon, Pacheco Elementary School, Marlen Rodriguez, teacher
1-2 p.m., Hawthorne Elementary School, Julie Dye, teacher
1-2 p.m., Monarch Grove Elementary School, Linda Schmaeling, teacher

On Campus:
7-9 a.m., free breakfast for engineers, Veranda Café
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., information booth on Dexter Lawn
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Colloquium Series speaker, Arun Majumdar, Building 007

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