Cal Poly to Celebrate National Engineers Week Feb. 20-26

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly engineering students will seek to fire the imaginations of area youngsters, campus groups will host an Engineering Club Fair at Farmer’s Market in downtown San Luis Obispo, and a wide variety of activities on campus will all serve to highlight National Engineers Week, Feb. 20-26.

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.

“The event gives us a chance to recognize the enormous contribution engineers have made to our quality of life and to inspire a new generation of boys and girls to consider careers in engineering, technology, math and science,” said Cal Poly student Andrea McGrath-Massie, chair of the university’s Engineering Student Council, which is sponsoring local events throughout the week.

Continuing an annual tradition, those events include an outreach to local fourth-graders by Cal Poly's Society of Women Engineers (SWE). The club will take hands-on engineering and science programs to local fourth grade classrooms throughout the week.

“This has been a wonderful event every year for both our SWE volunteers and the elementary school students," says Helene Finger, director of the Women’s Engineering Program at Cal Poly. “Our mission is to open the doors of the profession to young people, especially girls, who remain underrepresented in engineering and technical fields.

“With our SWE members serving as real life role models, the program definitely helps plant a seed about career and college opportunities.
Hopefully, we'll have a long-term impact by enabling these girls and boys to envision themselves as engineers and computer scientists,” she said.

The community will have the chance to enjoy interactive engineering design activities at an Engineering Club Fair at San Luis Obispo’s Farmer’s Market on Thursday, Feb. 24. Displays will also include student-built engineering projects, such as the legendary “Concrete Canoe.”

Additional activities during the week include:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 22**
  - **Off Campus:** SWE Fourth Grade Outreach
    - 1:15-2:30 p.m., Old Mission School, Jan Mello, teacher
    - 1:15-2:30 p.m., Pacheco Elementary School, Spanish component
  - **On Campus:**
    - 11 a.m., Softball: Students vs. Professors, Cal Poly Sports Complex.
    - 9:30 a.m. 3 p.m., Info Booth at Dexter Lawn

- **Wednesday, Feb. 23**
  - **Off Campus:** SWE Fourth Grade Outreach
    - 9:15-10:30 a.m. – Hawthorne Elementary School, Juli Dye teacher
    - 9:15-10:15 a.m. – Monarch Grove Elementary School, Rachel Schmaeling, teacher
    - 1:15-2:30 a.m. – Pacheco Elementary School, Susan Fassiotto, teacher
  - **On Campus:**
    - 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m., retired faculty and staff forum and tour, Advanced Technology Laboratory
    - 11 a.m., Olympic Bowl Club Competition
    - 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Info Booth, Dexter Lawn
    - 6-9 p.m., MEP Awards Banquet & Corporate Social, Advanced Technology Laboratory

- **Thursday, Feb. 24**
  - **Off Campus:** SWE Fourth Grade Outreach
    - 10:15-11:30 a.m., C.L. Smith Elementary School, Lynnly Sainsbury, teacher
    - 7 p.m., Farmers’ Market, Downtown San Luis Obispo
  - **On Campus:**
    - 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Career Symposium, Rec Center
    - 11 a.m., Pie Your Professor, Dexter Lawn. A chance for students to pie their favorite or least favorite instructors.
    - 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Info Booth on Dexter Lawn

- **Friday, Feb. 25**
  - **Off Campus:**
    - 6-10 p.m., SWE Evening With Industry, Embassy Suites, San Luis Obispo
  - **On Campus:**
    - 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Scholarship Luncheon Advanced Technology Laboratory
    - 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Info Booth on Dexter Lawn