Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers to Bring Hands-On Activities to Local Fourth-Graders

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly students from the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) will visit local fourth-grade classrooms the week of Feb. 22–25.

SWE members are scheduled to visit schools in Morro Bay, Santa Maria, Grover Beach and San Luis Obispo, where they will lead fourth-graders in hands-on science experiments and talk with them about engineering.

“We want to get younger students interested and excited in engineering through participation in a fun experiment” said Anastasia Newark, SWE Fourth-Grade Days commissioner.

Cal Poly’s SWE chapter has a long history of excellence and outreach within the community. Members often become “study-buddies” for elementary school children and mentor junior high and high school students. Other programs such as Building an Engineer, Shadow an Engineering Student and Girl Scout Engineering Day give youngsters a hands-on opportunity to learn about engineering.

“Our SWE members show students how fun engineering can be,” said Helene Finger, director of the Women’s Engineering Program at Cal Poly. “The fourth-graders relate well to our students, and this connection allows the younger students to see that being an engineer is a great career choice for someone like them.”

SWE members will be at the following schools (teacher names included):

Tuesday

- 10:50-11:50 a.m. - Grover Heights, Grover Beach (Gary Gonzalez)
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- 10:50-11:50 a.m. - Grover Heights, Grover Beach (Suzanne McClain)
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. - Alvin Elementary, Santa Maria (Julia Colon)
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. - Robert Bruce Elementary, Santa Maria (Patti Pine)

**Wednesday**

- 11:20 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. – Pacheco, San Luis Obispo (Marlene Vega)
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. - David Sanchez Sr. Elementary, Santa Maria (Anita Guizar-Diaz)
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. - Adam School, Santa Maria (Lupe Murguia)
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. - Adam School, Santa Maria (Chris Roullard)
- 1:50-11:50 a.m. - Battles Elementary, Santa Maria (Rick Rowe)

**Thursday**

- 1-2 p.m. – Robert Bruce Elementary, Santa Maria (Mary Cullen)
- 1:05-2:05 p.m. – Pacheco, San Luis Obispo (Susan Fassiotto)

**Friday**

- 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Del Mar, Morro Bay (Brittany Andrews)
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Del Mar, Morro Bay (Patricia Michniuk)

For updates and to confirm dates and times, contact Anastasia Newark at stasiamarey@sbcglobal.net.

Reporters and other members of the media are encouraged to call schools in advance if planning to visit and shoot photos or video and to stop at school offices before entering classrooms.

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