Giving Levels

Businesses that invest in AT&TMEP enjoy company recognition among students in the program, as well as increased access to some of the most successful minority engineers. Annual giving levels feature the specifically listed benefits, as well as those of preceding giving levels.

Eagle $1,000
- Recognition on MEP donor wall and Web site
- Invitation to annual awards banquet and recognition in program
- Football game day parking
- Other Engineering Eagle Society amenities

Benefactor $5,000
- Recognition on MEP donor wall and Web site with corporate link/logo
- Annual MEP career fair
- Opportunities to post announcements and present corporate information to MEP students

Sustainer $10,000
- Membership on MEP Advisory Board
- Annual CD with graduating MEP participant resumes

Visionary $20,000
- Private interview room for on-campus recruiting

Weatherby Circle $50,000
- Corporate tables at annual awards banquet and recognition in program
- Premium booth location at annual MEP career fair

Signature Sponsorship $200,000
- Program Naming
- Corporate recognition on MEP letterhead and in all MEP publications and promotions

Today more than ever, colleges and universities are aggressively competing for the most motivated and talented students. Given the diversity of our global economy and workforce, this is particularly true of minority students. Recruiting and retaining minority students, and providing them the tools for success, is a top priority of Auburn Engineering – and our AT&T Minority Engineering Program (AT&TMEP) is the means by which we are accomplishing these goals.

Launched in 1996, the Minority Engineering Program has played a vital role in promoting diversity among Auburn’s student body. In 2001, with a $1.05 million investment from BellSouth Corporation, the program was officially named the BellSouth Minority Engineering Program. In 2006, the program was renamed the AT&T Minority Engineering Program. It continues to bring underrepresented students into the engineering curricula, offer financial support through scholarships and develop the educational and social skills necessary for academic achievement.
Ensuring Academic Success

The transition from high school to two-year schools to the university environment often poses unique adjustment problems for minority students which can negatively impact their academic performance. Consequently, the AT&TMEP focuses not only on attracting minority students, but also on retaining them.

Retention initiatives target first-year and transfer students and provide supplemental instruction in mathematics, chemistry, physics, critical thinking and college survival skills in a structured and nurturing environment. One-on-one mentoring, collaborative peer tutoring and interactive educational opportunities are just a few of the activities designed to increase students’ academic achievement.

A measure of the AT&TMEP’s success is the 60 percent increase in bachelor’s degrees awarded to African-Americans at Auburn since the program’s inception. Students develop strong academic skills including problem-solving, time management, discipline and organization. Immediately after their freshman year, they become mentors and tutors. Historically, participants have achieved a grade point average increase of nearly a letter grade over students who choose not to participate in the program.

Recruiting efforts for the program include working with counselors and teachers at high schools and community colleges with strong science and math programs to identify potential students. Collaboration with organizations such as the Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering allows candidates to better understand the opportunities that exist in the field of engineering.

Program Components

Interactive Learning Laboratory

Incorporating nine computer workstations, this lab enables students to experience a variety of approaches to learning including one-on-one tutoring, peer learning and interactive software. Alternate stations allow students to work individually or receive assistance from mentors and tutors. The lab also utilizes the TimeMaps financial literacy interactive module which helps students develop money management and life skills.

Collaborative Learning Groups

Designed to foster peer learning in key mathematics, science and computer programming courses, these collaborative groups are facilitated by upper-class students proficient in these subjects.

Auburn Engineering ranked 15th nationally among all engineering schools in the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to African-American students according to the 2008 report from the American Society for Engineering Education.

Freshman engineering students are organized into study groups according to common technical courses. Mentor-tutors provide structure and problem-solving assistance. Sunday evening tutorial sessions allow students to receive additional academic help and participate in workshops covering topics such as study strategies, time management, diversity and transitioning into the workplace.

Shadow Mentoring Program

Upper-class students who have successfully transitioned into their major, provide guidance for incoming students. Mentors help manage academic schedules, share study strategies and assist new students with navigating campus culture and life. Frequent one-on-one mentoring and counseling are designed to recognize early academic difficulties and help students devise a plan of action for success.

Academic Resource Library

The library includes a collection of books, video tapes, software, periodicals and old test files to assist students in preparing for tests and exams. In addition, the textbook loan program helps minimize the financial burden of higher education for some students.

Staying Connected

Another measure of the MEP’s success is the “mentorship beyond the classroom” component of the program which was initiated by alumni. These alumni wanted to give back to the program which was of such benefit to them as students. The program pairs current students who are beginning an internship or co-op with an MEP graduate who works for the company where the student will be employed. This allows former students to serve as mentors and help MEP students adjust to the workplace.

Scholarships

A key factor in increasing the number and quality of underrepresented students in the program is the ability to offer financial assistance, through scholarships, to complete the education process. As Auburn competes for the brightest minority students, we must secure the resources necessary to offer financial incentives to potential students. Students who achieve a 3.0 GPA and participate in the program for five hours per week are eligible for scholarship awards.

The AT&TMEP was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant of nearly $600,000 for scholarships over the next five years, providing renewable $5,000-$10,000 scholarships to students based on academic merit and financial need. This funding will increase the program’s ability to recruit top students and will help enhance the academic support activities provided by the program.

For more information on the AT&T Minority Engineering Program, please visit www.eng.auburn.edu/attmep

Investing in the Future

Auburn’s Minority Engineering Program can be credited to those who created a vision for improving minority education and then offered the resources to support that vision. Today, we continue to encounter people and businesses who share a commitment to quality minority engineering education. We invite you to consider an investment in the AT&TMEP and help us provide academic, social and personal support for tomorrow’s engineering leaders.