UTEP Team to Participate in 2013 Shell Eco Marathon Race

A team consisting of 18 Mechanical Engineering students at The University of Texas at El Paso will be participating in the annual Shell Eco-marathon Americas competition on April 5-7, being held at downtown Houston, for its seventh annual super mileage challenge, inspiring young engineers to push boundaries of fuel efficiency.

Shell Eco-marathon challenges student teams from around the world to design, build and test ultra energy-efficient vehicles in three different countries, including Europe and Asia. More than 150 vehicles registered to participate in the 2013 Shell Eco-marathon competition, surpassing last years total of 112 vehicles. Teams will be awarded more than $44,000 in prizes to the winning teams, in addition to the travel stipends that were offered to each participating team.

Student teams were able to participate in one or both of the Prototype and Urban Concept entries with the chance of using diesel, gasoline, ethanol, FAME, hydrogen and battery electric technologies. The Prototype class invited student teams to enter futuristic prototypes – streamlined vehicles focused on maximizing fuel efficiency through innovative design elements, such as drag reduction. While the Urban Concept class focuses on more roadworthy fuel-efficient vehicles meeting the real-life needs of drivers, these vehicles are closer in appearance to the higher-mileage cars seen on roads today.

Using their knowledge of science and engineering to create ultra energy efficient futuristic cars, UTEP students will be able apply what they have learned in the classroom to design and build a vehicle from scratch.

"The team will be ultimately getting a hands-on experience handling tools and machining," senior mechanical engineer student Emanuel Luevano said. "Working with materials such as carbon fiber and metals commonly used in the automotive industry and contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment for the community. This year our projection estimate that our model will be performing in would be around 500 mpg."
The team is currently in search of sponsors, for more information contact Emanuel Luevano at ealuevano@miners.utep.edu

By: Andrea E. Acosta.