Engineering Extravaganza Brings 500 Students to UTEP

The student chapter of the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES) and the College of Engineering will host the Engineering and Science Extravaganza on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 9am-4pm at the Undergraduate Learning Center on the campus of The University of Texas at El Paso.

The annual event brings almost 600 middle school students to the Undergraduate Learning Center for an exciting day of exhibits, hands-on activities and motivational presentations. The 2012 version of the Extravaganza, themed "Become a Hero Tomorrow", will help young students visualize their opportunities as engineers and scientists to change the world.

Students will also learn the steps needed in high school to prepare them for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) majors in college. The program includes hands-on activities given by engineering student organizations, presentations from each of the engineering departments at UTEP, and a special workshop on aviation with Lockheed Martin.

The one-day event is made possible through a partnership between GEAR UP and the El Paso and Socorro Independent School Districts. GEAR UP, a 6-year program funded by the Department of Education, expands educational opportunities and assist students in becoming college eligible through a variety of developmental programs like the Engineering and Science Extravaganza.

"Our aim is to stimulate interest and increase enthusiasm among young students to pursue a degree in a field of engineering and science. For most of the participating students this is their first opportunity to spend time at the University and meet college students, faculty and STEM professionals" said Michael Acosta, President of the MAES National Organization.

Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., P.E., Dean of the College of Engineering at UTEP, and Michael Acosta, President of the MAES National Organization, will kick-off the event on Saturday morning.

MAES was founded in 1974 as the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists. MAES conducts Engineering and Science Extravaganzas across the U.S., hosted by the MAES University/College Student Chapters.
For more information on the event visit:
http://organizations.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=organizations.utep.edu/maesshpe