UTEP hosts Baja SAE competition for Centennial celebration

Last hosted in 1998, UTEP College of Engineering and the department of Mechanical Engineering will welcome 100 collegiate teams from around the world to the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Baja competition. In addition to teams from the Americas, teams from as far as India, United Arab Emirates and South Africa will converge on the UTEP campus April 24-27, 2014.

The Baja SAE competition challenges student teams to design, plan and manufacture an off-road vehicle. The design competition parallels the actual process of bringing a new product to the consumer market. The collegiate teams compete to have their design and entry accepted for manufacture by a fictitious firm.

The Baja competition’s objective includes constructing a safe off-road vehicle that can maneuver a variety of obstacles in a rugged environment. In addition to durability, reliability and performance, teams must consider cost and appearance.

After passing a rigorous safety inspection, the vehicles are evaluated in a series of dynamic events that test and rate top speed, acceleration, braking, land maneuverability, tractor pull, hill climb, mud bog, rock crawl and suspension.
The competition concludes with a grueling four-hour, rough-terrain race where vehicles are put to an endurance test to determine which entry can complete the most laps. UTEP’s rugged course is designed to be the ultimate test of design and construction of the Baja style vehicles.

Baja SAE is currently looking for volunteers to participate in the multi-day event. UTEP students, alumni and anyone interested are encouraged to be part of the exciting competition. The Baja2014 competition is one of many events taking place during the UTEP Centennial celebration.

For more information about sponsoring contact Juan Carlos Muñoz at jcmunoz5@miners.utep.edu

For general information or volunteering for the event visit: bajasae2014@utep.edu