



Materials Engineering (MATE) Department
California Polytechnic State University
1 Grand Ave
San Luis Obispo, California 93407

Dear Potential MATE Senior Project Sponsors:

August 1, 2017

The Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo Materials Engineering department is seeking sponsors to provide projects for our Senior Project class for the 2017-18 academic year. This is a unique opportunity to participate in engineering students' education and to have significant materials problems tackled by eager and dedicated individuals engaged in a formal design process.

Projects will begin in late September and continue for three academic quarters (concluding in June next year). During that time, students will create, test, and analyze a solution that attempts to solve your problem. The project timeline is:

1. The first quarter (Sept-Dec) focuses on problem definition and literature review. This includes a serious look at defining the materials engineering problem to be solved as well as an exploration of the student's full creative potential in generating solutions. The project scope and outcomes will be defined at this point. Students also prepare a safety plan for the project and standard operating procedures for testing.
2. The second quarter (Jan-Mar) focuses on detailed design, material procurement, testing, and analysis. In March, students will present their initial results and analyses in a design review.
3. The third quarter (Apr-Jun) focuses on refining their solution, performing additional testing and analyses, and relating their solution to the literature. The solution and a comprehensive final report, including test results, will be presented at the MATE Technical Conference and the College of Engineering Project Expo (still to be scheduled from sometime in late-May and early June of next year).

There are many benefits to sponsoring a student design project. In particular, project sponsorship will:

- Give your organization a new look at problems you need to solve. Both students and faculty will focus their experience and abilities on solving your problem.
- Allow you to observe individual students who you may consider for future hiring.
- Enable students to obtain a well-rounded project experience focused on real world engineering problems.
- Give you the chance to directly contribute to the education of future engineers.

If you are interested, please contact me directly. After receiving your proposal, I will work with you to scope your project and finalize its description. Faculty post and give a short presentation of the project to the students on the first day of class. Students select a project and faculty advisor within two weeks.

In order to provide an effective learning environment and improve project success, we ask sponsors to:

- Remain engaged with the student team throughout the process, providing technical expertise and feedback.
- Support the course by paying a sponsorship fee of \$3000 (if you will use the standard Student Project Agreement, attached) or \$5000 (if you prefer to separately negotiate intellectual property or confidentiality agreements). This fee covers department costs associated with running the course. It may be waived for service projects.
- Checks can be made payable to Cal Poly Foundation and sent to the Materials Engineering Department with attention to Lisa Rutherford.
- Fund execution of the project, including materials and possibly labor, depending on project complexity. If you have a specific budget in mind, you should let the students know.

Please contact me via email or phone if you have any questions regarding project sponsorships. On behalf of the Materials Engineering department, I would like to thank you for considering submitting a project idea.

Sincerely,

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