

Northeast State's TSPE CLUB is Growing – Promoting STEM Education & Careers

by
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This fall marks the 3rd fall semester in a row that we have had 40+ students in our ENGR1210: Introduction to Engineering class. Here are some of our secrets: (1) aggressive and persistent academic advising, (2) continual commitment to outreach, and (3) professional networking among our students, our faculty, our staff, our administrators, and area professionals in STEM careers. The focus is on our students – our present students, our future students, and our past students.

Outreach: We continue to visit area middle schools and high schools as time and schedules permit. Our reputation is growing, and groups continually visit Northeast State to learn of the educational and career opportunities and to see “Dr. Pollock’s STEM MAGIC SHOW.” This outreach is a vital community service and provides information in time for high school students to plan their futures. The idea is to get quality information to young people so that they can make quality decisions about their futures. We believe that STEM subjects and skills enhance all careers.

MathCOUNTS: Our Pre-Engineering students and faculty have been actively involved in MathCOUNTS since 1999. Since 2006, the annual MathCOUNTS Competitions have been held on Northeast State’s main campus.

Pre-Engineering Scholarships: In September 2001, as a positive response to 9/11, our TSPE Club began building for the future by contributing to our Northeast State Foundation and participating in the creation of new Foundation scholarships for students pursuing A.S. degrees in Pre-ENGINEERING and Pre-INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY. We chose “endowed” scholarships because endowed scholarships are “eternal” – the principal is preserved and allowed to grow, and the interest is awarded annually, typically \$1000/Academic Year (AY).

Our 1st success occurred when the Eastman Chemical Company generously created the J. Brian Ferguson Pre-Engineering Endowed Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time in AY 2003-2004. Our 2nd success, the Jeremy L. Hewlett Memorial Pre-Engineering Endowed Scholarship, was actually our 1st scholarship project begun in September 2001 and was awarded for the first time in AY 2006-2007. Our 3rd success happened in May 2006, when the Holston Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) created with a single donation the Holston Section ASME Pre-Engineering Endowed Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time in AY 2006-2007.

Annual TRIPS to 4-Year Universities: Every Fall, we plan and execute a trip (UTK TRIP) to the College of Engineering at The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Every Spring, we plan and execute a trip (TTU TRIP) to the College of Engineering at The Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville.

Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) – Northeast State’s Student Chapter, a “Delta” chapter, affiliated with the Upper East Tennessee Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (www.tnspe.org), a member State Society of the National Society of Professional Engineers (www.nspe.org), was recognized and certified eligible for participation in the Program for NSPE Student Chapters in May 1999. All students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are eligible to join. No dues are required, only a valid E-mail address. We have evolved to an “E” club to conserve energy and save costs – a “green” organization. We have eliminated weekly meetings. Members are kept informed electronically of interesting STEM activities – participating in those events subject to their interests and schedules. Contact Faculty Advisor, Dr. Mark A. Pollock, Ch.E. (UTK), P.E., MAPollock@NortheastState.edu, Room: F-226, Office: 423.354.2506, Home: 423.929.8231, Cell: 423.915.6259. Dr. Pollock closes every email with “You may contact me 24/7.”