EWC Hosts 2008 San Diego MESA Alliance Joint Planning Conference for Engineering and Science Students

By: IDS Communications

11-Sep-08

The alumni panel, including Raytheon employees Phong Bach, Wendy Martinez and Jodi Senger share personal stories with the students and answer their questions.

On Friday, Aug. 22, Raytheon's Expeditionary Warfare Center hosted more than 50 student leaders and industry sponsors for the 2008 San Diego Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Alliance Joint Planning Conference for engineering and science student chapters. The purpose of the annual event was to provide a forum for the leaders of various student organizations including: Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers and Society of Women Engineers to collaborate to improve chapter effectiveness and communication between stakeholders and to promote leadership development.

One of the most insightful sessions was the alumni panel question and answer session. Five former student leaders, now members of industry, including three Raytheon employees, answered questions on the topics of empowerment, life balance, conflict management and education advisor utilization. Each panel member shared inspiring words of wisdom for the students and shared their personal experiences.

The day also included a team building exercise in which the different organizations were faced with the challenge to see who could build the tallest tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti. The fast-paced competition tested the team's ability to work together in a time sensitive, stressful situation.

At the end of the day the students walked away with new relationships, a new set of problem-solving tools, new ideas, and most importantly the energy and confidence to go forward and make a difference in their respective organizations.

The teams compete against each other in an effort to build a tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti.

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