

# MEPI

Minority Engineering Program  
of Indianapolis

---

[mepi.org](http://mepi.org)



## Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis

---

1. History
2. Mission and vision
3. Existing Corporate Sponsors
4. Grade 6 -12 programs
5. Top priorities for the future
6. Opportunity for additional corporate sponsors
7. Volunteer opportunities
8. Benefits



# Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

### Nationally

*In 1973*, the National Commission on Education began efforts to increase the number of minority students entering the field of Engineering. Several educational institutions, corporations, and not-for-profit organizations took on the **challenge of developing programs that identified, prepared, and encouraged minority students to enter engineering careers.**

The **1985 Census** showed that, of the total number of **engineers nationwide, only 2.6% were minorities.** Also, the census showed, the numbers of minorities enrolling in post secondary institutions were declining.

### Locally

There were limited number of Indianapolis programs that impacted these statistics. **In 1986, the Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis (MEPI) was formed as one effort to help remedy this situation.**



# Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis

## PURPOSE

The goal of MEPI is to expose minority students, at an early age, to the career opportunities available in engineering and information technology (IT). Students are encouraged to excel in their studies while placing emphasis on Math, Science, and English. MEPI's concentrated programs provide a good foundation for minority students who plan to enter the field of Engineering or Information Technology. This action will expand the pool of talent from which Indianapolis area corporations will be able to select candidates.

## MISSION

The Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis increases student knowledge, interest, and engagement related to STEM studies and professional fields; with an emphasis on engineering and information technology.

## VISION

MEPI is a nationally recognized premier STEM program noted for building relationships between diverse mentors and students.



# Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis

## CORPORATE SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Allison Transmission

Cummins Inc.

Eli Lilly and Company

Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company

Honda

Indiana State University

Indiana University Purdue University (Indianapolis)

National Society of Black Engineers I.A.E.

Pacers Foundation

PACIV USA LLC

Rolls Royce Corporation

Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Xerox



## Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis

MEPI programming runs from October through May of every year culminating with our annual Year Celebration in June. All sessions occur on the second Saturday of each month from 9 am to 12:30 pm.

The focus of each grade-level program is as follows:

- **6th grade** – Introduces Chemical, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering using science kits to build various projects
- **7th grade** – Builds on Engineering disciplines from 6th grade with the addition of Industrial and Civil Engineering. Field trips incorporated to enhance hands-on experience
- **8th grade** – Emphasizes Industrial and Mechanical Engineering using computer programmable LEGO construction sets to construct various parts of one large scale project
- **9th grade** – Emphasizes the use of technical skills on an engineering project. Students participate in a end-of-year Science Fair, in which outstanding students are awarded prizes.

### GRADE LEVEL FOCUS

- **10th grade** – The tenth grade program exposes students to disciplines related to information technology. Opportunities to explore project management, web development, quality control, and technical writing are featured throughout the academic year. The first half of the year is spent teaching students HTML fundamentals. The latter half focuses on creation of a team website.
- **11th grade** – Begins the process of steering students through the task of college selection and preparation. Three sessions cover the steps involved in taking the SAT, from registration to interpreting test scores. Resource materials and courses available for SAT preparation are provided
- **12th grade** – Emphasizes the transition between high school and college by providing sessions devoted to goal setting, college and university evaluation, resume writing, study skills, time management, financial aid, and interviewing skills.

*The last session of each grade level is dedicated to presentations from each student on various engineering and IT topics.*

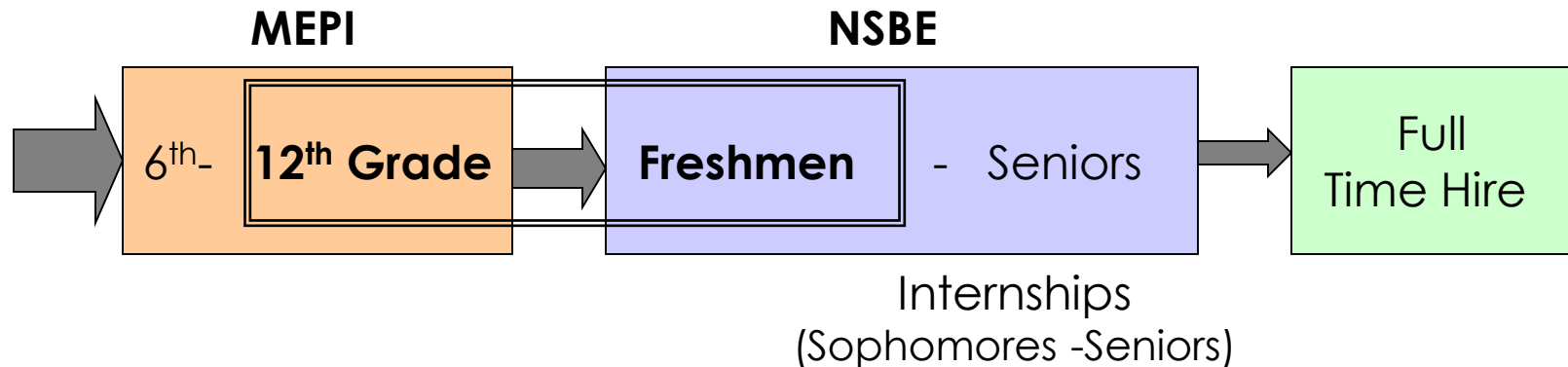
### TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

- Increase funding and volunteers
- Market/Network the program with other organizations
- Expand program to accommodate additional students
- Increase corporate sponsorship
- Increase opportunities for internships, scholarships, and fulltime employment for MEPI students/alumni
- Developing robust organizational structure to insure program sustainment
- Pursuing new Corporate Sponsors.
- Pursuing additional sources of income other than traditional corporate donations.
- Developing strategic plan for program growth.
- Developing Operations Manual
- Developing Branding/Marketing strategy and MEPI program packet.



### WHERE CORPORATE SPONSORS CAN HELP

**Provide Internships for MEPI students** - Offer internships to top talent from the 12<sup>th</sup> grade MEPI class who have been accepted into college in a technical field\* for internships during the summer prior to their freshman year in college. This will maintain the link with top talent as they enter college.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO

- Be facilitators (2 to 3 sessions per year)
- Closing Banquet coordinators
- Make presentations at local middle schools during career day
- Member or Chair Facilitator Recruiting Committee
- Member of Fundraising Committee
- Member or Chair Marketing Committee
- Member or Chair Scholarship Committee
- Member or Chair Annual Report Committee

### SUMMARY OF PROGRAM BENEFITS

- **Student benefits:**
  - Learn first hand about STEM careers
  - Facilitators provide mentoring and coaching opportunities to enhance the student success
  - 90% of students who graduate from program attend college
  - Internships/coops allow students to practice learned knowledge and skills
  - Permanent hire of students into sponsoring companies
  
- **Additional Corporate Sponsors:**
  - Help expand program to reach more students
  - Provide additional financial, facility, and facilitator support
  - Provide an opportunity to make a difference in the Indianapolis community
  - Provide internships, scholarship, and fulltime employment
  
- **Benefits to Indianapolis community:**
  - Avoid Indiana brain drain
  - Provide quality professionals for employment
  - Role models for other students