Capstone Design Program

CSU, Chico Mechanical & Mechatronic Engineering
When Industry and Academia Team Up to Solve Problems, Powerful Things Happen

The CSU, Chico College of Engineering Capstone Design Program partners senior-level engineering students with industry sponsors to design, build, and test solutions to real-world problems.

Engineering faculty members oversee all design projects, bringing to bear their own research and expertise in key engineering disciplines. Students gain valuable experience as they apply theory to practice, while industry sponsors benefit from introductions to young talent and the innovative solutions they present.

Such collaboration prepares our students for positions with top companies, advances our faculty’s cutting-edge research and professional practice, provides innovative solutions to our industry sponsors’ most pressing problems, and makes the world a better place to live as project solutions are implemented for the public good.

CSU, Chico engineering graduates are aggressively recruited by the nation’s top companies for their solid technical skills, strong team skills, and their ability to solve real-world problems.
Modest sponsorship fees are required to support fabrication, testing, and other educational objectives of the program. Because each Capstone Design Project is unique, sponsorship fees may vary from project to project. Fees are determined through collaboration with the sponsor to ensure sufficient funding for completion of the project.

**Ownership Rights**
Capstone sponsors retain ownership rights to all intellectual property developed by students as a result of their work on the project. Liability, intellectual property, indemnification, nondisclosure of confidential or proprietary information, etc., is all governed by legal agreements that are executed before the project begins.

**Program Timeline**

**THE EXPERIENCE BEGINS NOW...**
*Project sponsors are recruited and project plans finalized by mid-summer of each year.*

**THEN ACCELERATES...**
*Student teams are formed, initial solutions identified, and designs begin to take shape during the fall term.*

**GATHERS MOMENTUM...**
*Prototype construction and testing takes place during the spring term.*

**AND CULMINATES...**
*The Annual College of ECC Design Expo at CSU, Chico gathers industry sponsors, faculty, students, and the public to review, discuss, and celebrate design solutions.*

**Sponsorship funds provide support for**
- Materials for fabrication
- Off-the-shelf components
- Fabrication support from technical staff
- Testing of the design solution
- Faculty supervision of project design concept, production processes, prototype construction, and testing
Teamwork and the application of engineering concepts to real-world problems are key components of the engineering program at CSU, Chico. These, along with service to the community, form the backbone of what we call the ‘Chico Experience’.

Benefits for Students

- Practical, hands-on, real-world experience
- Development of team problem-solving skills
- Development of project management skills
- Opportunities to meet and work with potential employers

Benefits for Design Project Sponsors

- Opportunities to initiate research projects
- Collaboration with CSU, Chico engineering faculty
- The identification of innovative solutions to pressing problems
- Creation of competitive products
- Development of improved manufacturing or business processes
- Recruitment of potential employees