



Why Industry Supports MESA

For over thirty years California industry has supported the MESA program because it produces the technology-based professionals urgently needed for companies to maintain their competitive edge.

Some 200 companies, including SBC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, ChevronTexaco, Sempra and PG&E, have worked closely with MESA. Through these strong relationships, MESA has incorporated business concepts such as “return on investment” and “measuring continuous improvement” as part of its culture—a unique development within an educational institution. Corporate involvement remains strong throughout the program’s infrastructure, from the MESA Board of Directors at the statewide level, to Industry Advisory Boards at individual MESA Centers.

- **MESA has a 30-year track record of successfully training students to become the technology professionals that industry needs to remain competitive.** MESA’s ability to produce these professionals (and particularly engineers, as national graduation rates for these majors are declining), meets a growing need of companies today.
- **MESA provides industry with a pool of professionals from diverse communities.** Many companies seek a workforce that reflects the many communities that they serve. MESA produces 74% of the state’s underrepresented engineering baccalaureate recipients. Over 12% of the nation’s underrepresented engineering baccalaureate recipients are MESA students. Industry knows that MESA will provide them with quality professionals from diverse backgrounds.
- **MESA offers industry a solid return on investment.** They recognize that MESA’s strong partnership with schools, school districts, and higher education institutions provides the academic support needed for students to succeed in math and science-related studies. Companies know that the resources they place in MESA will produce results because their results are measured and tracked.
- **MESA is important for California’s economy.** An educated workforce is imperative for a strong, healthy economy. Given the importance of mathematics, engineering and science in all of the state’s major industries, MESA graduates play an especially important role to help California maintain the competitive advantage needed to compete in today’s technology-driven market.

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