March 3, 2010

The Pacific Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Chapter had the opportunity to attend the 2010 Regional Leadership Development Conference held in San Luis Obispo, February 26-28, 2010. The conference taught more about SHPE, its functionality and mission.

The conference consisted of various workshops directed by the hosting chapter and various professionals. Each of the five attending Pacific SHPE Students; Rene Guillen, Feliciano Leon, Noe Meza, Roberto Vera and Mike Zubrzycki were divided into separate groups so that they each had an opportunity to benefit from different workshops. Some of the topics covered included; leadership workshops, life as a SHPE leader, and team building. The workshops provided the students with valuable information about how to make our Pacific SHPE chapter operate more smoothly and effectively. Other workshops, such as the Advancing Hispanic Excellence in Technology, Engineering, Math and Science Foundation (AHETEMS) Information Workshop, provided the members with information about the AHETEMS Program and the many scholarship opportunities that it offers.

SHPE’s national staff then gave a presentation, titled “SHPE 101”, aimed to educate or remind SHPE students about the mission of SHPE—to be “The Source for Quality Hispanic Engineers and Technical Talent.” Pacific SHPE President Noe Meza stated that he felt like he learned many things that can help him be a more effective SHPE leader at Pacific.

The National SHPE President, Manny Hernandez, conveyed an inspiring message about the need of Hispanic engineers in the United States. Each SHPE student then went to a different case study where they learned about the various strategies that all of the other chapters employed in order to plan events, fundraise, retain members, and develop professionally. Pacific SHPE student, Feliciano Leon stated “We are all very excited about the outcome of the conference, and will apply what we learned to make our Pacific chapter better. We are all very grateful that we had the opportunity to attend this conference, and I hope that next year MEP will be able to continue supporting and helping SHPE students become successful professionals by attending these educational conferences.”