ENGINEERING

ENGI-NEWS

SPRING 2025

SPRING 2025
ISSUE NO. 2

CAREER FAIRS

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FALL AND SPRING CAREER FAIRS ON PAGE FOUR AND PAGE TWENTY-SIX

LUNAR TEAM ACCEPTED TO NASA COMPETITION

READ MORE ABOUT OUR LUNAR TEAM ON PAGE SEVEN

ENGINEERING WEEK

SEE ALL THE FUN ACTIVITIES HOSTED BY OUR STUDENT ENGINEERING COUNCIL FOR E-WEEK ON PAGE TWENTY-TWO

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

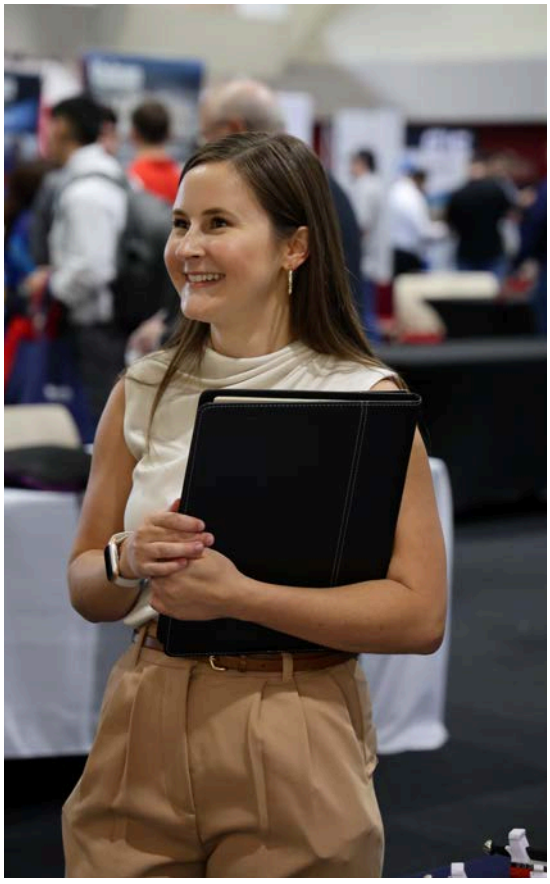
The excitement at LU's College of Engineering doesn't just continue to grow, it is blasting off. Speaking of blasting off, have you heard about our LUNAR team competing at NASA? These students exemplify what it means to be a Cardinal Engineer. Putting their engineering skills to use and testing rocket designs, they are blasting their careers into the next millennium, as seen by two students who have accepted positions at Blue Origin! There is no telling where your LU Engineering degree will take you. See for yourself!

The excitement has only continued to grow with the half million-dollar donation from the Valero Port Arthur Refinery to support our Chemical Engineering program. This funding will be used to install a Carbon Capture unit in the Chemical Engineering Unit Operations Laboratory, giving students the hands-on skills for solving some of today's toughest challenges. This donation also provides for a VR/AR chemical plant simulator for developing troubleshooting and optimization skills. Through this donation, Valero is ensuring our students continue to receive the most up-to-date training, keeping our graduates at the top of the industry's Most Wanted list.

On a personal note, my most exciting moments have been participating in commencement ceremonies. Being a member of the stage party provides me with a unique perspective watching each student cross from being a student to being a college graduate. I am reminded of my own journey as a college dropout, those late night study sessions, co-op experiences, and finally walking across that stage myself. Now, I am honored to step up to the mic and say these precious words, "Would the undergraduate candidates from the College of Engineering please stand?" Waiting for the crowd to cheer before stating, "I certify that these candidates have met all the requirements for the degrees that will be granted." It is an exciting and humbling experience.

You can read all this and more in the pages of the Spring Engi-News. We are so thrilled to have so many amazing moments this semester, gearing up our enthusiasm to see our new alumni thrive, our current faculty grow, and our next class of incoming students to join us in the Fall.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HOSTS RECORD-BREAKING CAREER FAIR



The Lamar University College of Engineering held its bi-annual career fair at the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Center this past September, featuring a record-breaking 85 companies. This event allowed undergraduate engineering students to connect with local companies seeking top talent from Lamar University.

"The career fair enables our students to form relationships with industry partners, network, and practice interview skills," Karli Padia, Director of Operations at the College of Engineering said. **"It also provides a wealth of opportunities for our high-achieving students to secure internships or co-ops for the summer or the school year."**

With around 300 students in attendance, many were able to secure interviews for internships, co-ops, part-time, and full-time positions.

"I received interviews from Olin, Dow, Motiva, Valero, and Indorama," Mariah Garcia, a chemical engineering sophomore said. **"The process was a little stressful and overwhelming, but it feels really good to see hard work pay off."**

College of Engineering alumni were also present, recruiting for the companies they currently work for.

"It was really enjoyable to come back and recruit for my current job," Dakota Emerson, process engineer at Indorama said. **"Seeing the talent at Lamar made me proud to be an alumnus, and I am excited for the future of these students."**

Students dedicated significant time to prepare for this prestigious event.

"In preparation for the career fair, I attended multiple company events at Lamar, including information sessions, mock interviews, resume reviews, elevator pitches, and other career development activities," Franky Alegria, a senior mechanical engineering major said. **"I also went to the JCPenney suit-up event to buy business professional clothing for the fair."**

Industry representatives were impressed with the students' readiness.

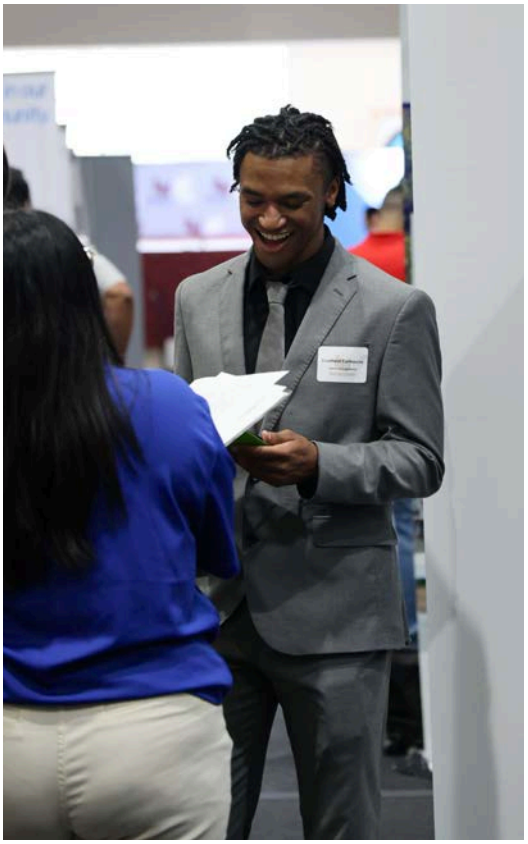
"We had lots of students who were interested in the company. They showed up to our table, asked lots of questions, and were clearly prepared to speak with us," Rayleigh Stiles, associate consultant at Trinity Consultants said.

The fair attracts a diverse range of companies from year to year, including major players in the oil and gas industry, as well as companies specializing in energy, construction, manufacturing, and more.

"Oil and gas are very prominent here, but HVAC is a very consistent business, and I think it's something that might be forgotten in this area," Greta Jackamonis, talent acquisition specialist for Texas AirSystems said. **"We want to let engineering students know there are other paths they can take besides oil and gas."**

This year's record-breaking turnout highlighted the career fair's effectiveness in connecting employers with Lamar University's top engineering talent. Industry partners agreed that Lamar produces engineering graduates they want to hire.

"**We're trying to infuse Lamar engineers and graduates into our company,"** said Brad Hopper, managing consultant at Trinity Consultants. **"Lamar has a great engineering school, and we love Lamar engineers."**



LUNAR TEAM ACCEPTED TO NASA COMPETITION TO LAUNCH AMATEUR ROCKET

The Lamar University Association of Rocketry (LUNAR) has officially been accepted into the NASA Student Launch Challenge competition for the second year in a row. Following endless hours of work over the summer, and the submission of the proposal, LUNAR is one of three teams from Texas to be a part of this competition.

“The NASA Student Launch is a 9-month competition in which we design, build and test a rocket and engineering payload to complete a mission, that has a new approach every year,” Ana Morfin, senior mechanical engineering major and LUNAR co-team lead said. **“Beyond the technical skills involved, the competition fosters teamwork, project management, and problem-solving skills, providing a valuable and positive experience for students.”**

This competition is aimed for students to explore science, technology, and math (STEM) as the students design their rocket, along with meeting documentation milestones.

The competition has many awards, including vehicle design, experiment design, social media presence, and the closest to the altitude target.

> **"The most challenging part of this competition is having to be innovative while also backing up your designs with multiple forms of hand calculations, research, and simulations," Jonah Watts, senior mechanical engineering major and LUNAR team-lead said. "Designing a rocket capable of a smooth flight is no easy task, its rocket science quite literally!"**

The LUNAR team at Lamar University is excited to begin working on their rocket design this year, with 27 members across 6 sub-teams.

"The LUNAR team is made up of students from various disciplines, which is one of the aspects I appreciate most," Morfin said. **"This diversity brings together a variety of perspectives and expertise, from engineering and physics to design and project management. Collaborating with individuals who have different skill sets enriches our projects and creative problem-solving."**

The LUNAR team also allows students who are interested in aeronautics to gain experience for their future employment opportunities.

"**Being part of the avionics team aligns perfectly with my future goals because it allows me to apply my electrical engineering skills in a real-world environment,"** Ryan Bell, junior electrical engineering major and LUNAR avionics team manager said.

> **"Previously, I would have never imagined being able to work on a project that is so relevant to the field of engineering that I want to work in for the rest of my life," Watts said. "Now, LUNAR is currently on our second year of being accepted into the competition and I have been able to utilize the skills I have learned from being a part of this team and applying them to getting internships and full-time job interviews and offers."**

The LUNAR team is not only hard at work making their rocket, but they also have fun.

"Everyone has different personalities and learning styles, which makes it really interesting to work together," Kathryn Brown, senior mechanical engineering major and LUNAR team recovery manager said. **"It's exciting because we get to be involved in every step of the design process—from brainstorming ideas and running simulations to actually building the rocket. Working through the entire process as a team makes it both fun and a great learning experience."**

The LUNAR team is looking forward to creating their rocket and competing at their final competition.

“We will compete against 50+ universities,” Brown said. “**This will be an exciting event to attend as we complete our final project milestone,”**

The Student Launch challenge all builds up to the on-site event, where final launches are scheduled for May 3, 2025. Students will showcase their rockets at Bragg Farms in Toney, Alabama.

To cheer on the LUNAR team, follow their journey on Instagram @aiaa_lu

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHTS

NEW INTERIM DEAN, DR. BENSON

WELCOMING DR. BENSON AS OUR NEW INTERIM DEAN. FROM FACULTY TO CHEMICAL DEPARTMENT CHAIR TO OUR NEW INTERIM DEAN, WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE DR. BENSON WITH US!

EARLY BIRD SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ABBEY, WHO WILL BE JOINING US IN THE FALL AS A CIVIL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN STUDENT. WE ARE SO EXCITED FOR HER TO JOIN US AND BECOME PART OF OUR CARDINAL FAMILY!

DR. HELEN LOU RECEIVES $1.4M GRANT

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. HELEN LOU ON RECEIVING A $1.44 MILLION GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY! DR. LOU AND HER TEAM WILL WORK ON ENHANCING CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER-FORENSIC CAPABILITIES FOR THE MIDSTREAM INDUSTRY. DR. LOU IS A FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS, AND IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT FROM LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR MIDSTREAM MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE.

VALERO ENERGY CORPORATION COMMITS $500,000 TO ENHANCE ENGINEERING LABS

BY APRIL THOMPSON

Lamar University has announced a $500,000 gift from Valero Energy Corporation to upgrade the Process Control Lab and Unit Operations Lab in the Department of Chemical Engineering. The donation, presented on Giving Tuesday, will fund innovative equipment and infrastructure improvements to enhance student training in critical industry skills.

The upgrades include the addition of a PetroSkills simulator to the Process Control Lab. The high-tech system features a control room operator display and a first-person 3D operator viewpoint, providing students with hands-on experience in managing day-to-day operations and emergency scenarios, such as equipment failures and hurricane preparations.

“The training will equip students with vital skills in alarm management, recognizing abnormal conditions, reducing response times, and understanding operator stress and fatigue,” Dr. Tracy Benson, interim dean of Lamar University’s College of Engineering said.

The Unit Operations Lab will also benefit from the installation of a carbon capture system, designed to teach students the importance of reducing the carbon footprint of chemical industries. This system will allow students to explore various absorption fluids, compare their effectiveness, and control temperatures and flow rates in absorption and regeneration processes.

“These enhancements will help students develop a deep understanding of carbon capture technology and its role in creating a more sustainable industry,” Benson said.

The $500,000 commitment builds on Valero’s longstanding partnership with Lamar University. Since acquiring the Port Arthur Refinery in 2004, Valero has offered co-op and internship opportunities to students and invested heavily in their education. Notably, the company established a $1 million endowed scholarship for the College of Engineering in 2009, benefiting hundreds of students over the years.

“This gift is a continuation of a two-decade partnership between Valero and Lamar University,” Juan Zabala, vice president of university advancement said. **“Valero has been a dedicated supporter of our students, providing invaluable opportunities and resources to prepare them for real-world success.”**

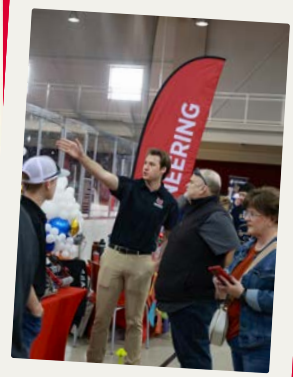
Valero representatives expressed pride in their contributions to the university. **“It’s an incredible day for Valero and Lamar University,”** Vice President and General Manager of the Port Arthur Refinery Jerry Stumbo said. **“This partnership has allowed us to enrich student experiences and provide cutting-edge tools for the next generation of engineers.”**

The upgrades to the Process Control and Unit Operations Labs are expected to position Lamar University as a leader in chemical engineering education, equipping students with the skills needed to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving industry.

“This is a game changer for our university, and we’re incredibly excited for what the future holds. I invite each of you to join us on this journey,” Lamar University President Jaime Taylor said. “Follow our progress, visit the Valero lab when it’s complete, meet our students and see firsthand how this partnership is transforming our students and shaping the future of chemical engineering.”

CARDINAL VIEW

20 SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BETWEEN FALL AND SPRING



SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH $1,000 WHEN YOU JOIN US AT CARDINAL VIEW!

VISITED WITH OVER 235 PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS BETWEEN FALL AND SPRING CARDINAL VIEWS!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US WITH THIS EVENT!

LAMAR UNIVERSITY ACHIEVES R2 RESEARCH CLASSIFICATION

BY APRIL THOMPSON

Lamar University has earned the prestigious R2 designation, a classification for institutions with high research activity, as recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

For the first time in history, the designation places Lamar among an elite group of universities

To qualify for R2 status, universities must award at least 20 research doctorates and spend at least $5 million on research and development in a given year.

Lamar exceeded both benchmarks, reporting $8.2 million in research expenditures in 2024 and awarding 64 research doctorates in the previous fiscal year.

Lamar University President Dr. Jaime Taylor called the achievement a testament to the university's commitment to expanding its research capabilities.

"Achieving R2 classification is a direct result of our work to increase externally-funded research," Taylor said. **"This has been a priority since I became president, and this recognition affirms that effort."**

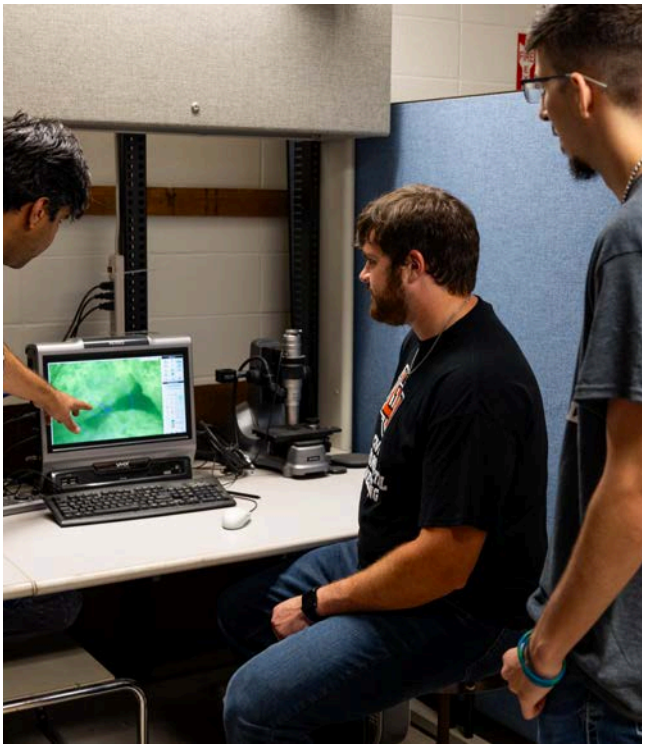
Taylor credited state and institutional support for making the milestone possible

"**I want to thank the Texas State Legislature for their strong financial support during the last two legislative sessions, the Texas State University System, and our alumni and supporters who believe so strongly in Lamar's potential,"** he said. **"R2 status isn't just a pat on the back for what we've done—it opens up huge opportunities for the future. This designation allows us to invest in research infrastructure, attract talented faculty, and provide students with hands-on research experiences that will prepare them for their careers."**

Lamar has significantly increased its research activity in recent years, growing expenditures by 93.7% and managing $19 million in active research funding from a range of partners.

"Our funders span federal agencies such as the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and the Environmental Protection Agency; state agencies like the Texas General Land Office and the Texas Department of Transportation; and private foundations such as the Gates Foundation and the Welch Foundation," Dr. Gene Theodori, Lamar University's associate provost for academic and research administration, said.

Theodori said the R2 classification highlights Lamar's expanding research footprint.



> **"This designation reflects Lamar's rising reputation for research excellence," he said. "The basic and applied research conducted by our faculty and students not only advances scientific knowledge but also contributes to real-world solutions."**

The R2 classification is expected to strengthen Lamar's impact in key fields such as port management, midstream operations, and community resiliency. Dr. Brett Welch, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the designation will create new opportunities for both students and faculty.

"This goes beyond acknowledging our research activity," Welch said. **"It's a testament to the results we've achieved in expanding externally-funded research. It opens new pathways for faculty research while also broadening students' learning and internship experiences."**

Lamar University's research partnerships will also expand. The university currently collaborates with institutions such as Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Houston, as well as major industry leaders like AMD, Texas Instruments, and BASF.

With its new classification, Lamar University leaders say the university is well-positioned for continued growth, enhancing its role as a research hub while ensuring students gain real-world experience.

FALL 2024 GRADUATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STUDENTS THAT GRADUATED THIS DECEMBER. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

ENGINEERING STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT QUANTA ADVANCED TRAINING CENTER

In January, 18 students from Lamar University's mechanical and industrial engineering departments visited the Quanta Advanced Training Center, located at the state-of-the-art Lazy Q Ranch in La Grange, Texas. During this trip, the students were able to receive their OSHA 10-Hour Certification and explore the Quanta training facility.

The students participated in an OSHA-Authorized Training Course, Hands-On Engineering Experiences, Career Preparation Workshops, and a Six Sigma Introductory Course.

"The trip was very insightful into the world of electricity and internet that we use every day," Connor Hayes, senior mechanical engineering student said. **"The most impactful aspect of the visit was experiencing how much time is spent on teaching safety and maintaining a safe culture throughout their company and their interactions."**

The partnership between Quanta and Lamar University was established through the Texas State University System (TSUS) to provide career and internship opportunities to students and partner with our research and sponsored programs. Through months of collaboration with TSUS, Quanta Services, Lamar University's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the program was offered completely free of charge to students.

“This partnership is invaluable as it provides students with knowledge of career and internship opportunities with Quanta and its family of over 200 companies as well as networking opportunities, such as the Dashiell Career Day,” Amy Dillow, marketing coordinator for the department of career and professional development said. “**Students also have the opportunity to take part in programs sponsored by Quanta such as the Career Readiness Microcredential Program, Senior Etiquette Dinner, and borrow items from the Career Closet. Additionally, students have the opportunity to utilize Indeed's Job Search Academy which offers additional assistance with career development through resume writing, job search, and career planning.”**

The students were also able to enjoy recreational activities such as fishing and a bonfire party during their downtime at the ranch, making this visit both educational and memorable.

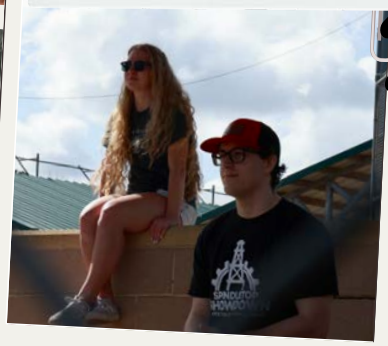
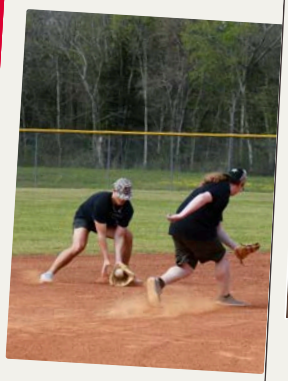
“Besides earning our OSHA safety certifications, the best part of our trip was truly the bonding experience,” Angel Powell, senior mechanical engineering student said. “I've taken classes with most of these people the past three semesters, and I don't think we talked as much or shared as many memories as we did on this trip. It was a great experience with some special moments that we shared.”

We commend the students for their dedication and for choosing to spend their winter break participating in this enriching opportunity. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Ashley Spicer-Runnels, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic & Health Affairs; Ms. Amber Stickney, Talent Acquisition Partner at Quanta Services; Dr. Jerry Lin, Associate Provost (retired from Lamar University); Dr. Selen H. Karasulu, Professor at Texas State University; Mr. Shafiuddin Shatu, Director of the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC); Jenny Zhou, Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. James Curry, Chair of the Department of Industrial Engineering. Their hard work and commitment were instrumental in making this initiative a success.

This event marks the beginning of a promising collaboration, with hope for more opportunities for our students in the future.

COE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT 2025



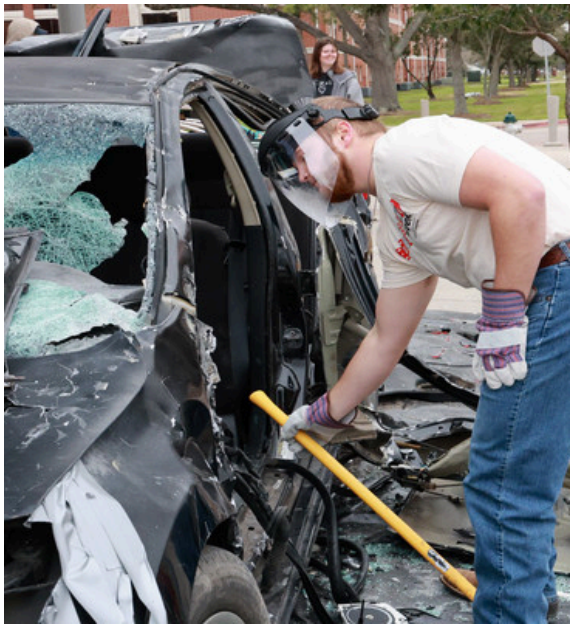







CONGRATULATIONS TO CIVIL ENGINEERING FOR TAKING THE CHAMPIONSHIP THIS YEAR!

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HOSTS ENGINEERING WEEK TO CELEBRATE STUDENTS

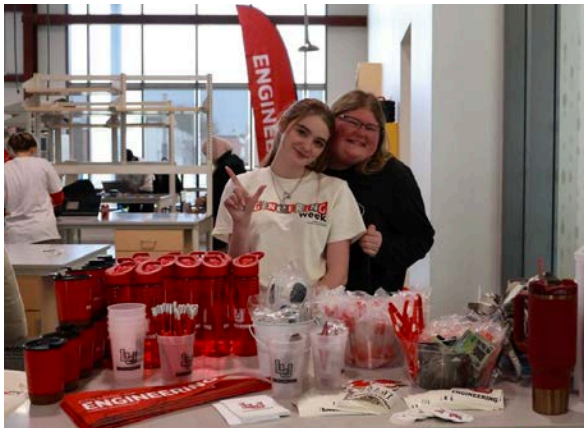


Lamar University's College of Engineering celebrated Engineering Week (EWeek) with a series of events, workshops and competitions designed to inspire students and highlight the diverse fields of engineering.

EWeek is one of the largest STEM events of the year in the United States. Founded by The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) in 1951, EWeek is all about increasing understanding and interest for engineering and technology careers. The College of Engineering hosts their own EWeek, to celebrate their students.

"**We want to celebrate all our students who are aspiring engineers,**" Phuong Khuu, vice president of the Student Engineering Council said. **"This is one week out of the year that we come together as all engineering majors for a celebration."**

Focused on student engagement and fun activities, this event is run by the college's Student Engineering Council. The Student Engineering Council is a student-led governing body leading all of the other student engineering organizations.

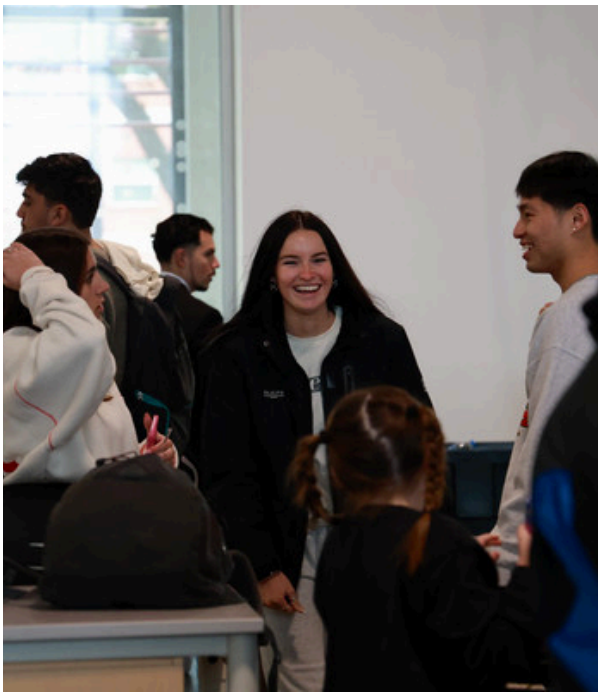


“We are in charge of events like the career fair and making sure events hosted by any engineering organization runs smoothly,” Madison Bundick, social media coordinator for the Student Engineering Council said. **“Our goal is to make every student engineering organization at Lamar University the best it can possibly be, giving engineering students access to opportunities and their best college experience.”**

"It was a very fun and relaxing time. It was a great break from my studies where I got to hang out with my friends,” Hannah Cherry, junior chemical engineering major said.

This year, the College of Engineering hosted a block party to finish off the EWeek celebration for their students. This block party included food, games, merchandise selling, and a car smash.

“**My favorite event was the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Car Smash we hosted,”** Dylan Lynch, mechanical engineering freshman and EWB vice president said. **“I loved making something wild and fun happen while bringing everyone together for this event.”**

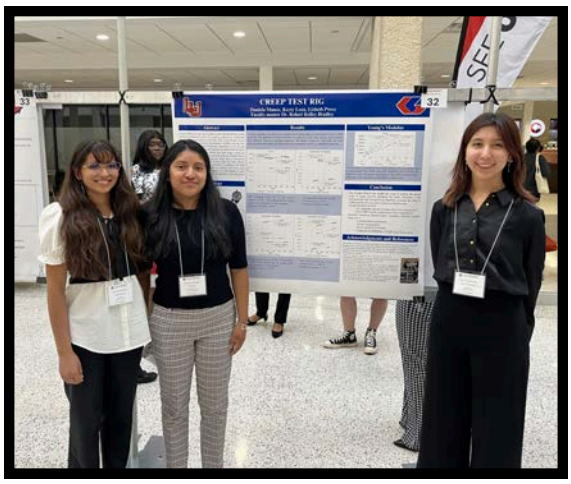


During the rest of the week, through the Student Engineering Council, each of the active student organizations on campus hosted a fun event for all engineering students. Bowling night, breakfast, park day, and jumping world were just a few of the fun events hosted by student organizations.

"It was fun to get to meet everyone who came to our Park Day and to relax and celebrate the importance and impact of our engineers," Maddy Bonin, Alpha Omega Epsilon member said.

> **"THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING EWEEK WAS AN ABSOLUTE BLAST THIS YEAR," TREY TOLAR, JUNIOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR SAID. "ALL THESE EVENTS MADE IT UNFORGETTABLE. I'M ALREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT THE COLLEGE AND ITS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS WILL DO NEXT YEAR."**

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHTS



CONNECTIONS WITH GALVESTON COLLEGE

Two of our professors, Dr. Qian of Civil Engineering and Dr. Bradley of Industrial Engineering, are a part of a research collaboration with Galveston College. From this connection, we have had 3 Galveston College honors students join Lamar, and 5 current students are planning to join in Fall 2025! Lamar is not the only university participating in the program, but the hands-on research engagement and contact with faculty and students have had a big influence on drawing Galveston College students to LU. The students who worked on research this semester were able to present their work at the Lamar Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Conference in April, and won the Best STEM Poster award at the Expo! We are so excited to continue this connection with Galveston College!

GRADUATE STUDENTS USING AI

Our graduate students are also making significant contributions through AI research, such as projects in vessel tracking and maritime safety, addressing complex real-world problems with innovative solutions. One of our Industrial Engineering grad students, Sheikh Muhammad Fareed, shares: “I am using AI tools to interpret and report inventory positions for buyers in my master’s thesis. This project developing my understanding of AI, programming, and supply chain management.” His thesis work not only honed his skills but also helped him land an internship at a major manufacturing company, Honeywell International, Inc.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HOSTS SPRING 2025 CAREER FAIR

The Lamar University College of Engineering hosted its Spring 2025 Career Fair at the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, bringing together industry leaders from across the country. Companies such as Indorama, BASF, Dow, Valero, TXDOT, and many more participated in the event, offering students valuable opportunities for internships, co-ops, and future careers.

We also took the time to check in with our students to hear their thoughts on the event and their experiences:

NAME: TIOLU AKINWUNMI

MAJOR: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

CLASSIFICATION: SENIOR

"THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE CAREER FAIR IS THE CONNECTIONS WITH DIFFERENT COMPANIES. I'VE RECEIVED TWO INTERNSHIPS FROM THE CAREER FAIR, AND IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW SCHOOL BALANCES WITH CAREER LIFE."

NAME: ELLA THEVIS

MAJOR: CIVIL ENGINEERING

CLASSIFICATION: SENIOR

"THE MOST BENEFICIAL PART OF THE CAREER FAIR IS DEFINITELY GETTING TO MEET ALL OF THE COMPANIES- BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL. IT GIVES YOU A MUCH BROADER SCOPE FOR THE KIND OF WORK YOU COULD DO IN THE FUTURE RATHER THAN JUST WHAT THEY TELL YOU IN CLASSES."

NAME: DAEGEN VOISIN

MAJOR: CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

CLASSIFICATION: JUNIOR

"THE CAREER FAIR GAVE ME MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH EMPLOYERS AND WITH COMPANIES WHERE I CAN SEE MYSELF WORKING."

NAME: ANTHONY OLIVER

MAJOR: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

CLASSIFICATION: SOPHOMORE

"[THE CAREER FAIR] GAVE ME THE ABILITY TO APPROACH COMPANIES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER, WHERE I AM ABLE TO GROW AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND BECOME COMFORTABLE TALKING TO THEM. IT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK AS WELL. I WAS OFFERED A SUMMER 2025 INTERNSHIP FROM CENTERPOINT AT THE [FALL] CAREER FAIR."

NAME: GWENDALYN HENNING

MAJOR: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

CLASSIFICATION: JUNIOR

"THE CAREER FAIR IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE YOU GET TO NETWORK AND CONNECT WITH NOT ONLY OTHER STUDENTS, BUT ALSO COMPANIES THAT TEND TO WORK WITH LAMAR. IT GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET MY NAME OUT THERE TO FELLOW STUDENTS, COMPANIES AND FACULTY."

NAME: JACOB SMITH

MAJOR: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

CLASSIFICATION: SENIOR

"THE MOST BENEFICIAL PART OF THE CAREER FAIR, IN MY OPINION, IS THE PRACTICE YOU GET. ESPECIALLY IF IT IS YOUR FIRST TIME, THE PRACTICE YOU GET FROM TALKING TO THE PEOPLE AT THESE TABLES WILL BE BENEFICIAL IN YOUR CAREER LATER ON, AND IN GETTING A CO-OP OR AN INTERNSHIP. THE FREE SWAG IS ALSO REALLY COOL TOO."

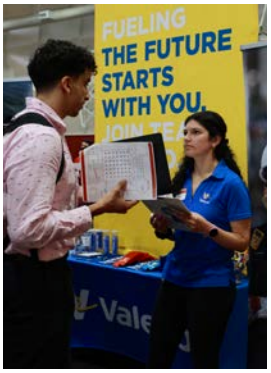
NAME: ELOHOR JACKSON

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING ALUMNI

CLASS OF 2020

ENGINEER AT DOW

"FROM MY FRESHMAN YEAR AT LAMAR, MY PROFESSORS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF INTERNSHIPS AND CO-OP EXPERIENCES AS A FUTURE ENGINEER. THIS IS WHY CAREER FAIRS ARE IMPORTANT. IT OPENS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO RECEIVE INTERNSHIPS, CO-OPS, AND FULL-TIME EXPERIENCES. IT ALSO GIVES STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO NETWORK WITH EMPLOYERS FROM VARIOUS FIELDS AND BACKGROUNDS. AS A LAMAR UNIVERSITY ALUMNA, I LOVE ATTENDING THE CAREER FAIR NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE STUDENTS THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES, BUT BECAUSE I KNOW THE VALUE OF LAMAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS."



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HOSTS FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOSTERING STEM IN K-8TH STUDENTS

The College of Engineering hosted their annual Discover Engineering event on Saturday, April 12, 2025. This community event was free for all who attended, and encourages kids to get excited about STEM careers.

"I think it's really important to get kids, especially younger kids, interested in STEM at an early age so they keep pursuing science and math, and eventually get a career in a STEM field." Chassidy Hearn, Society of Women Engineers (SWE) member said.

This event included hands-on activities related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) such as make-your-own-slime, butterfly art, robot driving, elephant toothpaste, lemon batteries, and a vertical jump test. Activities were hosted by current student organizations, LU departments, and local industry.

"**I believe engineering is such a broad aspect and children need to understand the fundamentals that fund our everyday life."** Maleigha Ednes, junior chemical engineering major said. **"I thought it was super interesting that we could show them through very simple projects and tasks."**

The event had local industry sponsors which helped make the event free for the public. This included the Blueprint Premier Sponsor of Indorama Ventures, who helped fund t-shirts, prizes, and more.

"AT INDORAMA VENTURES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION STARTS WITH CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY IN THE CLASSROOM. THAT'S WHY WE WERE PROUD TO SPONSOR LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S DISCOVER ENGINEERING PROGRAM, WHICH OPENED THE DOOR FOR K–12 STUDENTS TO EXPLORE STEM THROUGH FUN, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES." KIM HOYT, SITE DIRECTOR FOR INDORAMA VENTURE PORT NECHES SAID. "INVESTING IN PROGRAMS LIKE THIS NOT ONLY SUPPORTS OUR MISSION TO DRIVE INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY BUT ALSO HELPS BUILD A STRONGER, MORE DIVERSE PIPELINE OF FUTURE ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS, AND PROBLEM-SOLVERS."

"**Valero loves to sponsor and participate in Discover Engineering because it is a great opportunity to interact with children of all ages and introduce them to STEM activities,"** said Carol Hebert, Public Affairs Manager for the Valero Port Arthur Refinery. **"Children learn through exploration and hands-on activities make Discover Engineering a great opportunity to get children excited about STEM."**

This year, Discover Engineering included an alumni circuit with special refreshments, door prizes, and photobooth for alumni of the College. Alumni were also able to receive special door prizes at this event.

"I believe Alumni really enjoyed getting away to a quieter space that is indoors where they could sit and relax to enjoy some refreshments and network with fellow alumni." Shannon Figueroa, director of alumni affairs and advancement services said, **"I think having the area only for them made them feel special and like it was an exclusive perk they could enjoy with their families."**

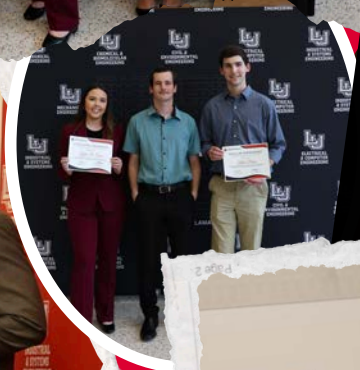
The students who attended not only got to participate in hands-on activities, but also return home with give-away prizes such as saltwater cars, solar robots, and other STEM activity kits.

“At TotalEnergies, the company’s fourth lever of Sustainability is ‘Communities,’ and part of living that lever is investing in students and youth of all ages, who are the future workforce,” said Jillian Fertig, Community Relations Advisor for the TotalEnergies Port Arthur Platform**. “Educating and encouraging our youth to explore potential career paths in industry at an early age can further spark their curiosity and make them aware of opportunities they may not have previously considered.”**

This event, which has been happening for over a decade, has touched the lives of many students, some of whom have become engineering students and engineers.

”PERSONALLY, I’VE BEEN A PART OF [DISCOVER ENGINEERING] SINCE IT STARTED HERE AT LAMAR WHEN I WAS PART OF SWE, BACK TWELVE-SOMETHING YEARS AGO WHEN IT FIRST STARTED.” PAIGE HOYT, SUPPLY MANAGER AND LEAD RECRUITER FOR LAMAR AT INEOS SAID. “THIS IS OUR FAVORITE EVENT THAT WE DO FOR OUTREACH FOR OUR LAMAR RECRUITING TEAM. IT’S GREAT TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH LAMAR STUDENTS, AS WELL AS AFFECT OTHER FUTURE ENGINEERS AND STUDENTS OF LAMAR.

2025 STUDENT ORG BANQUET



2025 STUDENT ORGANIZATION BANQUET AWARD WINNERS

ASCE - BREAKTHROUGH AWARD

The American Society of Civil Engineers were recognized for their remarkable growth and momentum over the past year. This group has expanded their presence on campus and increased student engagement. Their rapid development is a testament to their hard work, passion, and vision for the future.

NSBE - COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The National Society of Black Engineers were recognized for their ability to build meaningful relationships across the college and the university. This group has gone above and beyond to collaborate with other student groups and create a welcoming space for students of all backgrounds. Their wide-reaching impact shows their dedication to building a stronger, more connected campus community.

SHPE - STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARD

The Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers won this award for standing out at Cardinal View, where they awarded the Best Overall Student Organization table at this event. This group made a lasting impression on incoming freshman with their enthusiastic and professional representation. Their energy, passion, and commitment to engaging new students set them apart. From showcasing their mission to making personal connections, they've gone the extra mile to spark interest and inspire the next generation of campus leaders.

EWB - EVENT(S) OF THE YEAR

The Engineers Without Borders were recognized for their two outstanding events put on this year. From the spine-chilling fun of the Cherry Haunted House to the high-energy excitement of the Car Smash during Engineering Week, they've created unforgettable experiences that brought students together, boosted school spirit, and showcased what student-led innovation and teamwork can achieve.

SASE - JACK OF ALL TRADES

The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers were awarded the Jack of All Trades award for their excellence in all areas, from student engagement to leadership. This group hosted collaborative events with other student orgs, supported local businesses, offered career development opportunities, and demonstrated remarkable versatility and dedication. Their impact has been felt across campus, and their hard work earned them national recognition with the 2024 Inspire Award. This organization exemplifies what it means to lead with passion, commitment, and innovation.

AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO EXXONMOBIL FOR SPONSORING THIS EVENT, AND OUR STUDENT ENGINEERING COUNCIL FOR PUTTING IT TOGETHER!

TWO MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SENIORS ACCEPT OFFERS FROM BLUE ORIGIN

BY APRIL THOMPSON

Lamar University students, Jonah Watts and Ana Morfin, have accepted positions with Blue Origin, a leading aerospace manufacturer and spaceflight services company founded by Amazon's Jeff Bezos. The company is focused on developing technologies for space tourism, lunar exploration, and future missions to Mars, with the goal of building a sustainable human presence in space.

Watts, a senior mechanical engineering major, described the moment he received the offer as "shocking and exciting."

"I had just wrapped up my four-hour final interview when I received a call 30 minutes later with a verbal offer," Watts said. **"I was not expecting to hear back immediately, and I immediately called my family members to share the news. It felt amazing to finally get the job I've always dreamed of."**

Morfin, also a senior mechanical engineering student, learned about her offer on New Year's Day.

"It truly feels like my hard work and dedication have finally paid off," Morfin said. "**To be able to say that I will begin my career working on something that I am passionate about is a very surreal feeling. Receiving this news on that day was the best way to set the tone for my year."**

> **"My experiences at Lamar are the sole reason that I was able to get this position," Watts said. "I highly recommend that the College of Engineering continue to fund these amazing projects to give students the opportunity to succeed."**

Morfin echoed the sentiment, noting that her early decision to pursue aerospace led her to collaborate with professors and peers, helping her build the skills needed to stand out in the competitive field.

"I am proud to say that attending Lamar and starting the LUNAR club, along with being vice president of AIAA, helped me set myself up as a qualified candidate," Morfin said. **"I was blessed to choose among several options and be able to work for my dream company."**

Blue Origin, known for its reusable New Shepard rocket and lunar lander program, is playing a key role in NASA's Artemis program, which aims to return humans to the moon. Watts and Morfin will begin their roles at the company in June following their graduation from Lamar University.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

June 2-6, 2025: LITE Camp

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING WILL BE HOSTING RISING 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS FOR OUR ANNUAL LAMAR INTRO TO ENGINEERING SUMMER DAY CAMP. THIS CAMP INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO THE VARIOUS ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES AND ALLOWS STUDENTS TO WORK WITH GUEST ENGINEERS FROM LOCAL INDUSTRY.

June 9-13, 2025: Chem-E Camp

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING WILL BE HOSTING RISING HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS TO JOIN US FOR A WEEK LONG DAY CAMP FOCUSED ON CHEMICAL ENGINEERING IN A TEAM-BASED ENVIRONMENT.

July 21-25, 2025: Project Engineer

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING WILL BE HOSTING RISING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO THIS DAY CAMP WHERE THEY CAN VISIT WITH CURRENT STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS.

August 11-15, 2025: First-Year Engineering Math Bootcamp

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY AND STAFF ARE SO EXCITED TO MEET OUR INCOMING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS. WITH MATH-REFRESHERS IN THE MORNING TO HELP THEM PREPARE FOR THEIR FIRST MATH CLASS, AND EVENTS WITH CURRENT STUDENTS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS IN THE AFTERNOON, OUR NEW STUDENTS WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS AMAZING EVENT!

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED?
VISIT LAMAR.EDU/FUTUREENGINEER FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR SUMMER CAMPS, ENGINEERING VISIT OPPORTUNITIES, AND MORE!

ENGINEERING

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