



# DOS PUEBLOS ENGINEERING ACADEMY FOUNDATION

"Supporting engineering education on the South Coast"

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## WEB SITE

WWW.DPEAF.ORG

## DPEA Fall 2008 and Winter 2009 Highlights

### Capital Campaign Fundraising Success led by DPEA Families

The parent-led Capital Campaign fundraising drive kicked off in late September 2008. Each class was led by a Captain (2009: Christine Kelley-Buchanan, 2010: Barbara Bonsell, Debbie and Joe Donahue, 2011: Gary Simpson and Betsy Stivers, 2012: Jean Thomson) resulting in over \$200,000 of donations in three months. We successively matched three \$10,000 challenge grants in the months of October, November and December. Parent participation now stands at 99%.

### Capital Campaign Receives \$150,000 Donation from the Women's Fund

The strong parent support was a critical piece of our grant application to the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara. On February 9, 2009 the Women's Fund announced the award of \$150,000 to the Capital Campaign. This was their largest single donation to any local organization this year!

### Total Capital Campaign Funds now Exceed \$575,000

The success of the parents and new local donors raised our total Capital Campaign funds to \$575,000 by mid February 2009. Buoyed by these numbers, the DPEAF has submitted requests to philanthropists and local foundations amounting to \$1,650,000. We continue active discussions with potential donors and expect to make more requests in the next two months.

### Building Plans Approved

The DPEA facility drawings (completed by Kruger Bensen Ziemer Architects and the SBSD) received approval from the California Department of Education in December 2008, and the Division of the State Architect in early February 2009. This continued progress keeps us ahead of our project schedule. We expect a complete set of drawings and bid package by May 2009. We are nearly 'shovel-ready'!

### State Bond Matching Money Potentially Delayed, Federal Stimulus Package Impact Unknown

There are active discussions in Sacramento regarding the timing of the availability of the matching \$3,000,000. On December 17, 2008, the state's Pooled Money Investment Board halted cash distributions for capital projects, including those managed by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC). Until further notice, the OPSC is unable to release funds for school construction projects. Though the state commitment remains secure, the timing may well be delayed, potentially extending into summer 2010. The impact of the Federal Stimulus package on our project also remains unknown; this is a funding

opportunity that we are tracking.

### **FIRST 2009 Competition Underway**

The DPEA Class of 2009 (aka Team 1717!) received this year's FIRST robotics game: "Lunacy" ([www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)) on January 3, and has been working feverishly ever since. They are well on their way in the design and will ship the robot on February 17, 2009. This year's competitions will be at Long Beach on March 13-14, and UC-Davis on March 27-28. Buses are being arranged for fans to attend the Long Beach competition, so please try to make it and cheer on Team 1717! Please contact Jean Thomson ([jeanthomson@cox.net](mailto:jeanthomson@cox.net)) for information on a ride to Long Beach.

### **Visitors to DPEA maintain our Momentum**

We had a number of visitors this fall and winter, including Lois Capps on January 12. Team 1717 explained this year's game, as well as the DPEA's growth plans. KEYT news covered the event and Lois Capps praised our program. One week earlier, we were lucky to have Dr. John Parmentola, the Director for Research and Laboratory management of the US Army, as a visitor (arranged by David Gay of UCSB). He spoke about the Army's robotics program and highlighted opportunities at the Army's research laboratories. The West coast director of FIRST, Jim Beck, visited the DPEA for a full day in December in order to understand our successful program. FIRST hopes to help spread this model in the state of California.

### **Robot Appears at Paseo Nuevo, Lemon Festival and Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce**

The Santa Barbara community has had a few opportunities to see the 2008 robot in action. Paseo Nuevo hosted us during the peak of the holiday season, allowing Team 1717 to have a live display next to the Christmas tree. Many kids came to see it, parents talked at length with the senior class (who hosted the event), and new connections were made. We will do another such event in late spring with the 2009 robot. ATK Space hosted a booth for us at the Lemon Festival, which convinced Lois Capps that she needed to visit DPEA in person. Our presentation to the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce exposed local business leaders to DPEA's achievements and impacts on the local schools.

### **Continued strong Sustaining Fund Support from Local Corporations**

DPEA operations, robot construction and travel to the competitions depend on support from parents and corporate sponsors through our Sustaining fund. We are happy to report that we added a new corporate sponsor this year, Allergan Medical. In addition to yearly financial support, they intend to host visits to their site, as well as potential internships. Their support will greatly enhance our expansion phase as well. LCOGT continues to support 3-4 summer internships for DPEA students. Despite the economic downturns, these corporate sponsors came back this year: Renco, AFAR, Impulse Internet, ATK Space, FLIR, LCOGT, Raytheon and Valley Precision.

### **DPEA Foundation welcomes a new board member**

Gary Simpson has joined our board! Read his biography at [www.dpeaf.org](http://www.dpeaf.org).