



NEWS

MesaStateCollege
Office of Development
1100 North Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501-3122
Phone: 970-248-1868
Fax: 970-248-1076
www.mesastate.edu

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Contact: Dana Nunn

970.248.1868

970.640.0421

Mesa State & WCCC host first Design Expo

Grand Junction - Mechanical engineering students from Mesa State College/University of Colorado at Boulder and manufacturing and technology students from Western Colorado Community College will present their semester-long design projects at the first Engineering and Manufacturing Design Expo. The exposition is free and open to the public on Saturday, May 2 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Academic Quad, east of the Tomlinson Library at Mesa State.

The demonstration of engineering projects will showcase the work of the first class of mechanical engineering students enrolled at Mesa State in the mechanical engineering program offered through a partnership with CU-Boulder. The first-year engineering students are in a class that allows students to participate in real-world engineering design early in their college experience. The expo will become an annual event.

Engineering students worked in teams throughout the spring semester to design solutions to an array of challenges. Projects range from the development of a modern magnetic levitation train to a Rube Goldberg-type machine that turns off an incandescent light bulb and turns on a compact-fluorescent light through a complex series of indirect steps.

Manufacturing and technology students will demonstrate their sustainable energy projects involving micro-hydro, solar, wind, and computer control systems from the National Science Foundation funded programs.

Volunteers from industry, government and the community will serve as judges, rating each project on originality, craftsmanship and effectiveness as well as the students' presentation and understanding of engineering principles. An awards ceremony will be held at the end of the event. Members of the community can vote for their favorite project to win the coveted "People's Choice" award. The expo will become an annual event.

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