NSBE’s mission statement is “to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.”

**NSBE’s History**

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) was first founded at Purdue University in 1975 by the “Chicago Six”. This was a group of six African American engineering students who wanted to help improve the recruitment and retention of Black engineering students. At that time, 80% of Black freshmen, who entered the program as engineering majors, dropped out. The “Chicago six” wrote letters to all of the accredited engineering programs across the country, 288 in total, asking the schools to identify the Black student leaders, faculty members, and organizations on campus so that they could start the formation of chapters.

**NSBE’s Objectives**

NSBE’s objectives are:

- **Stimulate and develop student interest in the various engineering disciplines.**
- **Strive to increase the number of minority students studying engineering at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.**
- **Encourage members to seek advanced degrees in engineering or related fields and to obtain professional engineering registrations.**
- **Promote public awareness of engineering and the opportunities for Blacks and other minorities in that profession.**
- **Function as a representative body on issues and developments that affect the careers of Black Engineers.**

**Founding Advisors**

**Dean Jeff Wright** is founding Dean of Engineering at the University of California, Merced (since September, 2001), Director of the UC Merced Energy Institute, and the Campus Director of the Center for Computer and Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS). He was formerly Associate Dean for Research, Professor of Civil Engineering, and Director of the Indiana Water Resources Research Center, at Purdue University. Dean Wright holds undergraduate degrees in social psychology and in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, an MSE in Environmental Engineering also from the University of Washington, and a Doctorate from The Johns Hopkins University through the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering.

**Linda Zubke** is the Director of Student Support for the School of Engineering. She has advised engineering students since UC Merced opened its doors in 2005. Linda is a graduate of UCLA School of Law. She practiced law for a few years, but much prefers her current endeavors promoting student success for UC Merced engineering students. Linda is also the advisor for the engineering student umbrella organization, Vanguard.
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Tomiko V. Hale, M.Ed., is currently the Graduate Program Coordinator for the School of Engineering at UC Merced. She is also the NSBE at UC Merced founding Co-Advisor. Prior to joining the UC Merced family, she spent 9 years at the University of Southern California as an admissions representative for the Viterbi School of Engineering and as an Academic Advisor for the College of Letters Arts, and Sciences. She also served on USC’s Center for Black Student and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board throughout her tenure. She is passionate about working with students and providing the support they need to be successful in college.

CONFERENCES

The 2007 Fall Regional Conference, held at the Microsoft Center in Redmond, Washington was UCM’s first NSBE Conference. We were able to send two representatives on our behalf (largely thanks to PG&E our main sponsor). At this annual event, representing students had the opportunity to network with other Region Six chapter representatives, attend workshops, and listen to a wide range of speakers, including Bill Gates. Our students were able to meet with other chapters and spread the UCM name. Getting our schools name out was one of our main goals, along with obtaining valuable information for the development of our chapter.

This year’s National NSBE Convention, held in Orlando, Florida, was the most anticipated event during this academic year. Pre-collegiate, collegiate, graduate, and business professionals from all six regions were present. Though it is only our first year as a chapter, we were able to send five representatives and our advisor to help spread UCM’s name.

With over 10,000 attendees, this national convention was not one to miss. With workshops, one of the biggest professional career fair, and a graduate school fair, there were many opportunities to get questions answered in regards to post-graduate plans.

Business attire, portfolios, and resumes were all part of this upscale event. Recruiters were searching the crowd for summer interns. Our students brought a lot of information back to UCM. At night, there was entertainment of all sorts ranging from party with famous DJ Capri and a concert by an American R&B, soul and neo soul singer-songwriter, keyboardist, and record producer Angie Stone. The first meeting back from the conference, the student that were at the conference shared their experiences, spirit building regional chants (every NSBE region has their own), and free stuff they got with members that didn’t get a chance to participate. “It was a great opportunity to go out and meet professionals in our different fields who were interested in knowing the type of students UC Merced produces, and we put our best foot forward” said Andres Garcia, a junior in Environmental Engineering.
**WORKSHOPS**

This year NSBE has hosted a number of workshops including but not limited to resume and networking workshops. We had networking series open to all UC Merced student body by top notch IBM recruiter, and by a networking professional from Modesto Gary McKinsey of Grimbleby-Colman. The IBM personal, Raul Munez came out here to UC Merced because of a great effort and persistence from our advisor, Tomiko Hale. All the time and energy spent in trying to get him out here was well worth it. More than 40 students (members and non-members) attended the workshop and benefited from it. It also opened opportunity for NSBE to work with others clubs like SEA, a model club on campus. NSBE and SEA members are on the process of getting a resume book put together to present to Mr. Raul Munez, who promised to make something happen for us and strengthen his relation with the school for the future.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Asphalt Legend with a theme “take it to the streets” will be our first annual basketball tournament. This tournament will be held here on campus on Saturday May 10, 2008 from 10am to 3pm which will include 3 on 3 contest, 3 point shoot out, and slam dunk show case. Stephanie Sullivan, Secretary of NSBE here at UCM said “this event will be one of a kind, it will bring UCM students together and it will also start a tradition which will keep our chapter here on campus intact”. There will also be prizes for winners in all categories. NSBE is expecting a big turnout and support from student body. “We want everyone to come out and participate in any way they can, come and show case their skills, support their friends, and support NSBE’s movement” said freshman in Human Biology Allison Watkins, publicity director of this event.

**Elections**

NSBE UC Merced chapter is having its officer’s election early next month. Currently we have officers ranging from freshman to juniors and encourage the same trend to continue going into this election. We are grooming lower classman so they can keep the strength of the organization intact and help it grow. We also know that we are pioneers for all Engineering professional organizations on this campus and we are handling the responsibility very well. The positions we are electing officers to are: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Chair, Web Master, and Publicity.

**Website**

Our website is the best place to get information about our chapter here at UC Merced. It is updated regularly and includes links to other NSBE websites, our chapter projects, conference main points, documents, pictures, and tons of other stuff. Our web master Tony Tran Truong has done a very good job of putting it all together and maintaining it. You must go check it out the website at http://nsbe.ucmerced.edu

**THANKS**

NSBE at UC Merced would like to especially thank: our advisors, German Gavilan, folks at PG & E, clubs that collaborated with us (AASA and SEA), our wonderful guest speakers, and anyone that has helped us through out the year.