

STEM Speaker Series Summary

In the Spring of 2013 the Cañada College STEM Center initiated the STEM Speaker Series. The purpose of the series was to increase student interest in pursuing careers in STEM. Professionals working in STEM fields were invited to share their knowledge and experiences with Cañada College students. The presentations were held each Wednesday evening from January 31st to March 27th.

The Speakers

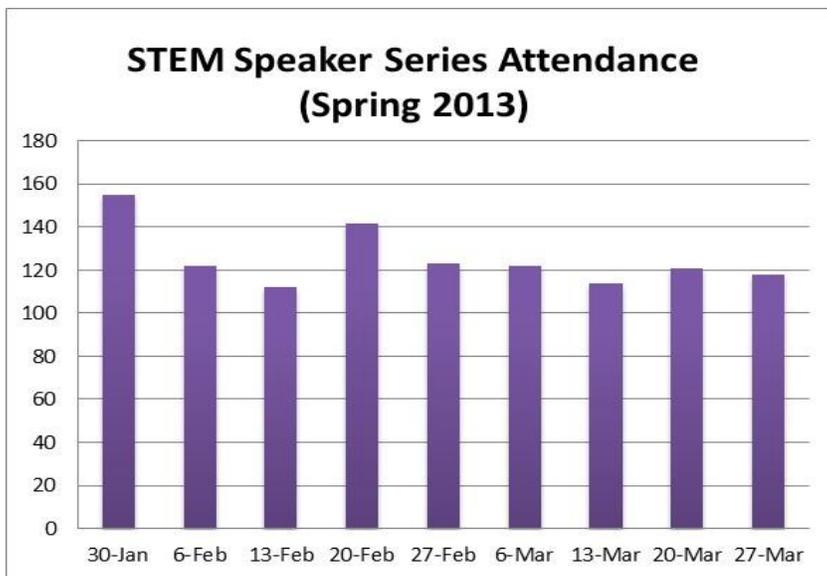
The series featured a diverse group of speakers representing a variety of disciplines within STEM.

The speakers included:

January 30	Juan Orduña	Sr. Scientist	In Vivo Biology
February 6	Judy Kjelstrom	Director of Biotech Program	UC Davis
February 13	Ignacio Zandejas	Sr. Software Engineer	Jetlore
February 20	David Levinson	Sr. Research Engineer	Lockheed Martin
February 27	Dylan Garrett	Business Development Director	Synapse
February 27	Kate Garrett	Fellow, Biodesign Program	Stanford Univeristy
March 6	Andrea Foster	Geomicrobiologist	U.S. Geological Survey
March 13	Lydia J. Young	Engineering Manager	Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
March 13	Maria Kazandjieva	Doctoral student	Stanford, Computer Science
March 13	Melissa Ibarra	Cañada Alum	Marine and Environ. Studies
March 20	Saniya LeBlanc	Research Scientist	Alphabet Energy
March 27	Maricela Prado	Senior Research Scientist	Biostride
March 27	Alex Ramos	Engineering Intern	Cisco Systems
March 27	Marjorie Martinez	Cañada alum / student	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Student and Faculty Participation

Over the nine weeks of the program the average attendance was over 125 participants and no workshop had less than 110 attendees. STEM faculty were visible at the workshops and encouraged their students to attend the series. A handful of faculty offered students course credit for attending.



Student Satisfaction

An online survey was developed to gauge student satisfaction with the STEM Speaker Series. A link to the survey was emailed to the students who attended the speaker series. The results (included in table 1 below) indicated the respondents were very satisfied with the quality of the speakers, topics covered, quality of food and refreshments, and helpfulness of the program staff.

Table 1

Participant Satisfaction with Spring 2013 STEM Speaker Series - Students

	<i>n</i>	Satisfaction with STEM Speaker Series Elements (5 = Completely satisfied - 1 = Not at all satisfied)
Quality of STEM Speakers	36	4.63
Topics Covered in the Series	36	4.46
Quality of the Food and Refreshments	34	4.24
Helpfulness of STEM Program Staff	35	4.71

Faculty Satisfaction

An online survey was developed to gauge STEM Faculty satisfaction with the STEM Speaker Series. A link to the survey was emailed to all STEM faculty at Cañada College. The results (included in table 2 below) indicated the respondents were very satisfied with the quality of the speakers, topics covered, quality of food and refreshments, and helpfulness of the program staff.

Table 2

Satisfaction with Spring 2013 STEM Speaker Series - STEM Faculty

	<i>n</i>	Satisfaction with STEM Speaker Series Elements (5 = Completely satisfied - 1 = Not at all satisfied)
Quality of STEM Speakers	6	4.83
Topics Covered in the Series	6	4.33
Quality of the Food and Refreshments	6	4.5
Helpfulness of STEM Program Staff	6	5

Faculty were also asked if they believed their students benefited from participating in the STEM Speaker Series. All of the faculty (8) who responded to this question indicated their students benefitted from attending the series.

Student Comments

Was attending the speaker series beneficial to you?

"Yes because I got to learn about different fields of STEM and they were all interesting. They also made me feel motivated to do better in school."

"Yes, it was. I got a lot of inspiration to keep working toward my career. Engineers were awesome."

"I think it did benefit me! Not only were they very informational and interesting but it was a fun campus event as well where people could hang with their friends."

"Let's just say, after listening to Judy, I started looking for summer internships that night. After listening to the speakers, I was more excited about doing engineering."

"Yes. I learned a lot about what it will take for me to establish a career in a STEM field such as working your way up through universities by maintaining good grades and getting internships to establish a solid relationship with future employers."

"Yes, because it broadened my horizons to what was in the math, science and engineering departments. I didn't realize that you could do so much in the stem majors."

About CALSTEP

The "California Alliance for the Long-term Strengthening of Transfer Engineering Programs" (CALSTEP) is sponsored by the US Department of Education through the Hispanic-Serving Institution Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (HSI-STEM) program. The CALSTEP project promotes an understanding and appreciation of STEM careers through outreach activities for middle school, high school, and community college students. It addresses the main barriers to the retention and success of students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through a combination of intensive preparation for college-level work, multiple entry points and accelerated pathways for students into STEM education, and previously proven academic support strategies.

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