Cal State LA receives Keck Foundation grant for Innovation and Design Center

Alhambra resident to lead a team at Cal State LA faculty in integrating project-based learning into curriculum, research

Cal State LA has been awarded a grant to establish an Innovation and Design Center that will foster a learning community focused on design and manufacturing. With a $335,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation, the center will provide project-based learning for more than 1,000 undergraduate students annually in the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology (ECS).

“This grant from the Keck Foundation will enable the college to develop collaborative, experiential learning opportunities for our students, the next generation of technical professionals who will lead, serve, and transform the greater Los Angeles area — and ECS drains deeply Alhambra,” said ECS Dean Sandy Allen.

The goal of the three-year grant project is to prepare students for success in STEM fields.

The Innovation and Design Center will provide students with training workshops in the design process, computer-aided drafting software, advanced manufacturing techniques, and microcontroller programming.

The center will also offer space and resources for club meetings, team projects, research, and collaboration with industry through experiential design projects.

The design and fabrication space is located in the Engineering and Technology building, room 911.

“The Innovation and Design Center will help students develop their confidence, knowledge and skills in manufacturing, design, and innovation,” said Alhambra resident Chris Baldwin, the grant principal investigator and assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Cal State LA. “Most importantly, the hands-on learning will instill in students the knowledge and skills needed to become engineers and technologists.”

Mr. Baldwin teaches and conducts research in the areas of design and building, specifically focused on wind energy, biomaterials, fuel cells, and batteries. He will lead a multidisciplinary team of Cal State LA faculty in integrating project-based learning into their curricula and research.

The team includes Joan Deier, associate dean of the college; Sid Hong, associate professor of technology; Ted Nix, director of the Creative Studio Design Program; Michael Thieke, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and KIM Wilson, assistant professor of engineering in the Programs of Curriculum and Instruction.

With support from Cal State LA faculty, some students will be able to choose a group or project for a starting design class project, which will allow design and design teams to incorporate advanced engineering competitions. The center will enhance course and project by incorporating hands-on learning experiences.

Author Lian Dolan to speak at luncheon

Lian Dolan, artist and podcaster, will be the guest speaker at the members of the Keck Foundation to benefit the Children’s Medical Research Center. Ms. Dolan is the author of “An Artist and the Arts” who appeared on “Spoken Portrait” on Sunday Morning, the Today Show, and several local stations. The luncheon will take place at the St. Gabriel Country Club Wednesday, April 26. To make a reservation, please call Teri Febo at 626-385-9964. Individuals or businesses wishing to make a donation of $100 or more can do so by contacting Teri McAlister at 626-385-1713 or dmcalister@stgabrielsclub.com.

The Auxiliary of the Children’s Medical Center looks forward to hosting the luncheon, in Annual Fundraising for the Children of St. Simon, which has been here in Alhambra for more than 150 years.

Woman’s Club to meet March 6

The Alhambra Woman’s Club will meet at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 6, at Alhambra Court, 700 S. Alhambra Ave. Alhambra. The club has been regular for more than 100 years providing mature women an opportunity to make new friendships. Visit the Alhambra Woman’s Club and enjoy delicious food, a lively game, and great conversations. Come prepared to dance.

The price of the luncheon is $35 for members and $42 for non-members. Please call 626-281-9507 to make a reservation by March 6.

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