Diversity and Inclusion Building Brighter Futures

At SoCalGas, an investment in our workforce is an investment in the future.

As principal partners of the California State University - Los Angeles (Cal State LA) College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology capstone program for over a decade, SoCalGas sponsors senior engineering capstone projects every year.

In recent years projects have focused on advances in hydrogen and other methods of increasing energy sustainability and safety. Ranked the <u>top university for upward mobility</u> in the country, Cal State LA understands the importance of connecting in-classroom learning with in-demand, real life applications.³²

"It is so critical for engineering schools to have strong partnerships with employers so students can interact with working engineers," says Dr. Emily Allen, Cal State LA Dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology. "These connections help students to get exposure to what engineers actually do in the working world."

Daniel Lopez worked on a SoCalGas senior capstone project developing advanced meters with sensors and other safety measures, such as automatic turn-off mechanisms for earthquake or methane leak detection. Daniel says some of the most important skills he learned were related to teamwork.

"The senior design project was critical in my career progression," he says. "I learned to collaborate with people, with different teams, working with my liaison from SoCalGas."

At the completion of his capstone, he received an offer to join the SoCalGas team full-time and has been working as an engineer for three years. He's now the SoCalGas Capstone liaison, supporting the next generation of Cal State LA students. He's also back at Cal State LA as a graduate student, wrapping up his master's thesis in mechanical engineering.

"When you graduate from Cal State LA you have a lot of options of where to go, and I've only had good experiences with SoCalGas," he says. "I can't stress enough how grateful I am for the opportunities that Cal State LA and SoCalGas have given me."

Daniel Lopez Capstone Program Participant

