

## CHINESE INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS – USA to Chair Engineers Week for the First Time in 2008

Aiming to make engineering a stronger, more diverse profession, Engineers Week 2008 is unveiling a broad program of outreach and education efforts to encourage more women and other diverse groups to consider engineering careers. The Chinese Institute of Engineers (CIE-USA), a not-for-profit engineering society representing Asian-American professionals in corporations, academia, and public services, will chair Engineers Week in 2008 for the first time, partnering with IBM. Engineers Week – scheduled for February 17-23, 2008 – is expected to directly reach several million people around the world with a special focus on expanding diversity in the engineering field and in the workplace.

Engineers Week, a coalition of more than 75 engineering, professional, and technical societies and more than 50 corporations and government agencies, is held each year around the time of George Washington's birthday who, as a surveyor, is often considered America's first engineer. Founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951, the program is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by promoting pre-college literacy in math and science. Among the oldest of America's professional outreach efforts, EWeek also raises public understanding and appreciation of engineering contributions to society.

Recent co-chairs of Engineers Week include the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) and Tyco Electronics Corporation (2007); the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Northrop Grumman Corporation (2006); and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME International) and BP (2005).

### Focus on Diversity for 2008

One priority for Engineers Week 2008 is diversification in communities representing women, Blacks, Hispanic/Latinos, Asians, Native Americans, people with disabilities, and gay individuals in engineering. Among those endeavors is the annual New Faces of Engineering, recognizing outstanding young men and women from

many nations, working in a wide variety of engineering disciplines, who have shown extraordinary skills as new professionals in the field and provide strong role models for those who might wonder if engineering is right for them.

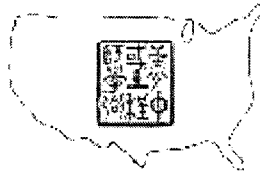
Another popular program returning this year is the eighth annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, which helps young women understand the importance of the work that engineers do and lets them know that the profession wants and needs them.

### Chinese Institute of Engineers-USA

For its part, the Chinese Institute of Engineers embodies the very spirit of engineering diversity, with more than 10,000 members across the country. One of its outstanding efforts is the annual presentation of the Asian American Engineer of the Year Awards, launched in 2002, the same year the institute became an Engineers Week supporter.

CIE-USA was founded in 1917 in New York by a group of Chinese engineers who graduated from American universities and served in various industries in the US. Its mission is to promote communication and exchange of information among various fields of engineers and scientists who are interested in the well-being of the Asian engineering community in the US and abroad. Today, there are six regional/local chapters, including Dallas/Fort Worth, New Mexico, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and the Overseas Chinese Environmental Engineers and Scientists Association (OCEESA). Working closely with professional organizations, institutions, corporations, and its chapter members, CIE holds technical, professional development, and recognition events, seminars and conventions including the annual Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) Award Banquet.

As a recognition of outstanding professionals for personal achievement and significant contributions to their institutions, communities and country, the Asian American Engineer of the Year is the only program of its kind presented in conjunction with Engineers Week. This meaningful platform honors individuals for monumen-



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tal breakthroughs in science and technology that have brought lasting benefit to people around the globe.

Among the 2007 award recipients were Dr. Taylor Gun-Jin Wang, the first Asian American astronaut scientist, Dr. James Wei, former Dean of Engineering at Princeton University, and Norman Mineta, who served in the U.S. Congress for 20 years before becoming Secretary of Commerce during the Clinton administration and Secretary of Transportation under George W. Bush. Previous award recipients include Dr. Leo Esaki, 1973 Nobel Prize winner in Physics; Dr.

Chang-Lin Tien<sup>●</sup>, former chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley; Dr. Samuel Ting, 1976 Nobel Prize winner in Physics; and Dr. Steven Chu<sup>●</sup>, 1997 Nobel Prize winner in Physics.

The event co-chairs expect that EWeek 2008 will bring a renewed sense of the promise and possibilities of engineering.

“CIE-USA promotes communication and information exchange among engineers and scientists to empower young professionals to become the next generation of industry and community leaders,” says CIE-USA Chairman Patrick Chang. “We are thrilled to be working with IBM to mobilize our membership and support a network of diversity that not only embraces the Asian-American community, but all communities that can make our profession, as well as our nation, stronger.”

## **Overview of Engineers Week 2008 Programs**

With a pledge to continue the rich history of EWeek programs that extend from kindergarten through college and into the workforce, Engineers Week 2008 co-chairs will offer an unprecedented scope of initiatives, including key activities such as:

- The “Global Marathon For, By and About Women in Engineering,” a 24-hour Internet and teleconference event scheduled for March 20-21 at the Engineers Week web site – [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org). Created by the National Engineers Week Foundation in 2005,

the Global Marathon is co-sponsored by Lenovo and Verizon Business.

- The 16<sup>th</sup> annual National Engineers Week Future City Competition™. Each year, more than 30,000 middle school students at more than 1,100 schools across the country use hands-on applications and teamwork to create computer and large tabletop scale models that represent their visions of cities of tomorrow. At the same time, the students get what will be for many a fascinating first glimpse of engineer’s role in society. Under the guidance of teachers and volunteer engineer mentors, students present their designs before engineer judges at one of 40 regional competitions in January. First place regional teams win a trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Finals, February 18-20, 2008. For more information, go to [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org).

- The eighth annual **Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day**, Thursday, February 21, 2008. Thousands of women engineers – with support from their male colleagues – mentor and share firsthand experiences of engineering to more than one million girls and young women on “Girl Day” and throughout the year. For many girls, this will be the very first time they will have ever considered engineering as a potential career path.

- **New Faces of Engineering** showcasing the profession’s rising young stars from around the world. By highlighting young engineers and their contributions, New Faces provides stimulation and incentive for college-level students and encourages younger students to consider engineering careers. EWeek partners nominate candidates age 30 and under who must hold an engineering degree, be employed as an engineer from two to five years, and have been involved in projects that impact public welfare or further professional development and growth. Nomination deadline is December 1, 2007.

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For more information on the CIE, visit [www.cie-usa.org](http://www.cie-usa.org). For more information on Engineers Week, visit [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org). □

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