



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering

CivE 495 – Capstone Design Class

Dear Friends of the Industry,

Students thrive when the classroom is influenced heavily by the industry; when bringing practitioners and students together. Every year we look at how we can improve the Senior Design class and provide better prepared graduating engineers to our local industry. As practicing engineers ourselves, our mission has been to involve real firms and real agencies working with the students on “real” projects. There are over eighty students in the class every semester, representing civil, construction, and environmental engineering majors, so the guidance and expertise that we, as co-professors, can directly offer to the students is limited. That is where you come in! We are reaching out to the greater industry to support the class, support the students, and provide direct impact to the future engineers in our community. Most of the students graduating from SDSU will work for local consultants and agencies. Early industry involvement for the students is a major benefit for both the students and employers.

We are reaching out to you today to invite you to bring project opportunities into the class. If you have a project idea; either a real project you are working on, a future real project you anticipate, or even a made up project that you think would be good for class, please let us know and we will work with you to make it work. The real projects we have offered in the past have generally been more successful than others, such as the National City Green Streets, Urban Water Harvesting for the City of San Diego, Normal Heights Bike Trail, Miramar College Parking Structure, Rose Canyon Universal Rail Crossover, and City of Santee Alternative Storm Water Compliance and Woodside Ave Roundabout.

Projects that are generally best are those without any previous study or preliminary design. If there is previous work available, it may limit the students’ creativity or ability to perform analysis, so we usually ask that information be selectively provided. Your involvement as a project mentor will be as involved as you like. Generally it may consist of helping provide background project info, meeting with the student teams a few times throughout the semester, and responding to occasional emails and phone calls.

It all starts with the project “RFP’s” that we develop to present to the class as the options for projects they can choose from. On the first day of class, the students form teams and decide which project they would like to do based on the RFP’s. Their first deliverable is to develop a proposal to include a scope of work, roles and responsibilities, and project design schedule. Following the proposal stage, the students begin design development in producing a 50% design submittal halfway through the semester and a 100% design submittal at the end of the semester.

Fall class begins in late August and ends in early December, while Spring begins late January and ends early May. The class culminates in a “Design Day” event where the students are able to showcase their projects to the industry and faculty at Caltrans D11 headquarters in the Fall and at Montezuma Hall in the new Aztec Student Union in the Spring.

If you have a project in mind or have any questions, please give us a call or an email.

Thank You!

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Connect with
the Class!

[click here](#)



FALL PROJECTS NEEDED BY AUGUST 19th!!