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Wired Project 3.8 Innovation Tour Report
Cal Poly Pomona University/Kelly Space & Technology

11 students from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona visited Kelly Space & Technology in San Bernardino and received a tour from the Program Managers there. The tour was held from 3:00pm-5:00pm on Friday May 23, 2008.

In spite of the rainy weather, the students, accompanied by the Director of Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) at Cal Poly Pomona, were there with lots of questions for the program managers. In fact, they remained after the tour ended asking questions and listening to the experiences and stories of the engineers there. The group consisted of the full range of students from freshmen to graduating seniors. For less than half of these students this was a 1st time visit to an aerospace company. Every student stated that the tour was excellent and sparked their interest even further in the aerospace industry. When asked what they gained from the tour the following were some of their responses:

“Good insight into how a real aerospace company works & what to look for in my first job”

“I experienced a work environment”

“Enlightening towards idea of what engineering is really about”

“Showed me how propulsion and rocket testing worked which was something I’ve always considered”

“Interesting look at R&D”

“I obtained a better understanding of an engineer’s duties and responsibilities. Also, I received advice on what types of education to pursue”

“Very real information and experience from engineers and life stories that were very beneficial to my career choices”

“I received very helpful insight to what direction I will take in the next few years in school as well as my career”