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## **MESA Honors HP for Commitment to Math and Science Education**

Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA), a nationally acclaimed education program, has named HP its Corporate Partner of the Year. The award honors the company for its active involvement in supporting efforts to assist educationally disadvantaged students to excel in math and science and graduate with math-based degrees.

The award ceremony will take place on Friday, Oct. 24, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel, 400 West Broadway, San Diego.

The award ceremony is particularly significant as it will take place exactly 25 years to the day when HP co-founder David Packard attended the first-ever MESA Industry Advisory Board meeting, serving as one of the founding members of that body. Other HP executives, including Bess Stephens, vice president of philanthropy and education at HP, have represented the company on MESA's statewide board.

Michael Aldaco, University of California assistant vice president for Student Development and Academic Services and MESA executive director, will present the award to Glen Hopkins, director of research and development, Commercial Inkjet Platforms at HP.

"I'm especially pleased to present this award during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HP's formal affiliation with MESA," said Aldaco. "Throughout the years, HP consistently has provided our students with opportunities to learn about technical careers, offered scholarships, internships and contributed other valuable resources. HP also is actively involved with our Industry Advisory Boards, providing guidance to help MESA stay in touch with the needs of industry."

"In turn, MESA provides HP with greatly needed technical professionals to become part of its workforce. HP's involvement with MESA is an outstanding example of a school/university/industry partnership that works," said Aldaco.

The award presentation is part of a three-day summit on HP's Community College Pre-Engineering initiative. The initiative has supported 27 pre-engineering programs around the U.S. that prepare students to transfer to a four-year university and obtain an engineering or computer science degree. HP's investment includes an HP Wireless Mobile Classroom that helps the community colleges increase retention and transfer rates for low-income minority students. Over half the HP grant recipients are MESA community college programs.

Since the 1970s, HP has offered field trips for MESA participants, providing many students their first encounter with engineers and other math-based professionals. Today

HP is a major destination for MESA Shadow Days, where students follow engineers and other professionals during a typical workday.

“HP and MESA share a commitment to educating our students and providing them with the skills in science and mathematics that help them find challenging, fulfilling employment upon graduation,” said Stephens. “We recognize the important role that teachers play in getting students excited about math and science – so we are committed to giving teachers and students better technology to reach greater goals in learning.”

#### About MESA

MESA is an intersegmental program involving California’s K-12 and higher education institutions and serves over 35,000 educationally disadvantaged pre-college, community college and university students. MESA provides academic support so students will excel in math and science and graduate with math, engineering or science degrees. The program is renowned for its ability build strong partnerships with education and industry.

MESA students receive 74 percent of engineering baccalaureate degrees awarded to underrepresented students in California. Nationally, about 12 percent of underrepresented students who receive engineering degrees are MESA students. Last year, of 450 MESA community college students who transferred to four-year institutions, 100 percent were math-based majors. Seventy percent of all MESA graduating high school seniors go on to college, compared to 49 percent of California’s graduating seniors.

MESA was named as one of the country’s most innovative public programs by Innovations in American Government, a project of the Ford Foundation, the JFK School of Government at Harvard University, and the Council for Excellence in Government. MESA also has been honored by the White House as one of the nation’s top programs to mentor students from groups underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

California MESA is the model for similar programs that operate in 10 other states, with a projected expansion into other states in the next year.

For more information about MESA, visit the MESA website at [mesa.ucop.edu](http://mesa.ucop.edu).

For more information about HP’s educational programs, visit:

<http://grants.hp.com/us/education/index.html>