

Submitted for presentation at the SAE Aerospace Atlantic Conference, Mini-symposium: Aerospace Education, Dayton, OH; April 18-22, 1994

Preparing for the Future: Ways in which industry and academia are to work together for achieving excellence in aerospace education.

By

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ABSTRACT

Over the years we have seen many changes in the nature and needs of aerospace engineering education. Many of those changes have been due to trends in the aerospace companies doing business with NASA and DOD. In the past, funding by government programs aimed at meeting the demands and needs of industry significantly influenced establishment, teaching and content of aerospace programs at major public and private research universities. Many small campuses with significant minority enrollments were unable to participate in aerospace engineering education primarily due to lack of adequate resources. Now, we must think boldly about the opportunities and responsibilities brought to us by a rapidly changing world. Because of a new aerospace business climate created as a result of altered government priorities, coupled with international competition, we must begin to think about and educating for the kind of aerospace engineering and technology that will be needed in the next generation. It is expected that in the next generation, the work force will be made up of many more minority engineers when compared to the present.

This presentation will discuss challenges of changing times, and techniques to provide minority engineering students access to quality aerospace engineering education by combined efforts of industry and academic institutions. Efforts underway at California State University, Los Angeles will be described to emphasize such a team effort.

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