



Doris Matsui (third from left), the congresswoman representing Sac State's district, was joined by, from left, Kevan Shafizadeh, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Samantha Elizalda, ASI president, and President Robert S. Nelsen, among others during Matsui's visit to campus on April 18, 2023 (Sacramento State/Andrea Price)



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The SMUD Fund is a vital resource supporting projects that drive research, innovation, economic growth, and community development in the Sacramento region. Through the SMUD Anchor Institution Partner Investment for Power Engineering, significant support is provided to the College of Engineering and Computer Science and the SMUD Ambassador Program within the Division of Student Affairs at Sacramento State.

This partnership offers a range of opportunities to enhance power engineering education and community engagement. It supports the development and update of the power engineering curriculum, participation in career and internship fairs, and the hosting of professional energy colloquiums. Additionally, funds can be used for research and development projects, collaborative meetings with SMUD engineers, and student recruitment efforts.

One of the key components of the partnership is the SMUD Ambassador Program, which selects students to represent the partnership and act as liaisons between SMUD, Sacramento State, and the community. These ambassadors receive training on SMUD's career outreach programs and play a crucial role in mentoring youth in STEM events, particularly in underserved schools.

Educational outreach is a significant focus, aiming to recruit diverse youth to power engineering and support retention efforts for current and prospective students. This includes participation in educational activities at local schools, after-school science fairs, and equity educational fairs. Ambassadors also support students from diverse backgrounds through mentoring and tutoring, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

Furthermore, the partnership provides access for SMUD to participate in career and internship fairs, facilitating workforce development in the energy sector. Through info sessions and career demo presentations, students gain valuable insights into the day-to-day experiences of professionals in power engineering, helping them align their academic pursuits with future career opportunities.

In summary, the SMUD Anchor Institution Partner Investment for Power Engineering is a multifaceted partnership that not only enhances education and research in power engineering but also fosters community engagement and workforce development in the Sacramento region.

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