THE API BURSARY PROGRAM

The energy industry is going through the greatest transformation since electricity was first invented over 100 years ago. Due to a vast new range of technologies being implemented, there is a significant demand for improved electrical infrastructure in order to stay on top of the current and future innovations. The demand for freshly skilled power engineers is especially strong as many of the existing professional power engineers are nearing retirement.

BURSARY PROGRAM 2014

Extensive promotion of the API 2014 bursary program has been undertaken at all universities with a commitment to power engineering across Australia.

Each bursary provides cash value of $8,000 over 4 years and offers a support system to help students successfully complete their degree. This program also provides a platform for mentoring, vacation work opportunities, industry thesis topics, and networking events in order to help students transition into the workforce more effectively. API is excited to host the 2014 bursary awards mid-October.

The vacation work opportunities have been deemed especially beneficial as the program encourages students to get involved within the industry early on. These experiences help students learn of potential job opportunities through networking while also providing exposure to practical and technical challenges within the industry. The 2014 vacation placement process has come to a positive conclusion as industry representatives successfully completed interviews October 7th.

THE API & ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS PARTNERSHIP

The API has partnered with EWB in order to provide API Bursary Students access to EWB activities in efforts to broaden their social and sustainability skills by participating in various workshops and through networking.

As part of this partnership, an upcoming workshop highlighting Power Generation for Remote Communities has been organized. This series of free courses will be held during the first week of December.
API SUPPORT FOR STELR PROGRAM & THE SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE

API provides part funding for The Solar Car Challenge along with the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE). API supports this program by providing class sets of re-usable model solar car kits to 50 schools Australia wide using the Science and Technology Education Leveraging Relevance (STELR) Renewable Energy Module. Each class set makes 15 model solar cars comprising a chassis, two sets of wheels, a motor, a gearbox and two solar panels.

The solar car activity is the culminating activity of the STELR Renewable Energy module where students apply the knowledge they gained from the STELR unit. Students test their cars against each other.

The kits are provided free of charge to schools. API also provides certificates for schools to use as prizes for the best cars in a variety of categories.

API encourages involvement between university engineering students (who currently are apart of the bursary program) with participating high schools by sending each school a university student to deliver a presentation on careers in the renewable energy industry. During the visit the young undergraduate engineers will also assist with solar car construction, judge the cars, and award prizes.

FEEDBACK

“ATSE is delighted with the feedback from schools both on the quality of the solar car kit and the quality of the presentations by the bursary holders and the interaction with the students. The program is achieving the goals of both ATSE and the API as many students have been inspired to pursue careers in power engineering.” – Peter Pentland (STELR Project and Education Program Manager)

“The API Solar Challenge has come to a successful conclusion. The API bursary student was great to work with in organising and conducting the visit. She connected very well with the students. This is a terrific program for all and we would love to be involved again in future years to come.” – High School Teacher (Queensland)

“Overall, my experience with the students was great. They seemed quite interested in the work that they had been doing as well as with the new developments in the solar/electric car industry. It was refreshing to see the communication between the students and facilitators. It was very clear that they were absorbing the concepts and showed active interest in learning about the different careers that the power engineering industry has to offer.” – API Bursary Student
IMPRESSIVE COLLABORATION WORKING TOWARDS ONE COMMON GOAL

The Australian Power Institute is proud of the collaboration between such strong organisations who encompass the common goals of increasing the pipeline of educated young professionals through dynamic improvement of the educational structure.

The Academy’s STELR initiative, already taking innovative science education to nearly 400 secondary schools around Australia, will be a key element of a new $1.6 million, two-year collaborative program to encourage student participation in math and science for students in years 11 and 12.

The Inspiring Science & Mathematics Education (ISME) project is a collaboration between Southern Cross University, the University of Wollongong, Charles Darwin University and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE).

The consortium received $996,500 through the Australian Maths and Science Partnerships Program Competitive Grant Round, announced by Education Minister Christopher Pyne. The consortium participants will provide the balance of the project funding in cash or kind.

ISME learning modules will be delivered through a web-based platform and are designed to increase both the enthusiasm and engagement of secondary school students for STEM subjects and careers and to increase the number of students choosing maths and science courses at tertiary level.

The program aims to address concerns that:

- Secondary school science and maths participation rates have declined over the past two decades and have settled at a low level
- Students do not see the relevance of science to their lives
- Too many science and mathematics teachers are teaching out of field.

This program will use the expertise of University Science, Engineering and Education faculties and other research institutions to develop multidisciplinary modules that engage secondary students through relevant contexts. The modules will involve hands-on, inquiry-based science and mathematics activities supported by background information and career profiles of recent graduates working in the relevant industries.

All Australian schools will ultimately benefit. Teachers will be supported through the provision of comprehensive multidisciplinary modules that include student activities and worksheets, and teacher resources. The partner universities will deliver Professional learning workshops for all teachers in the ISME program.
THE API 2014 NATIONAL BURSARY AWARDS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

When: 30 September 2014
Where: Western Power
Cameron Parrotte (Executive Manager Network Planning Operations of Western Power) presented bursary awards to 6 new students before conducting a tour of the Western Power Medical Centre Substation.

QUEENSLAND:

When: 16 October 2014
Where: Powerlink
Merryn York (Chief Executive Officer) presented awards to 10 new students. Students were then given a tour of the Powerlink demonstration facilities (SVC simulator and Communications area).

VICTORIA

When: 23 October 2014
Where: Wilson Transformer Co
Seven students received bursaries awarded by Hugh Gleeson (CEO of United Energy). Shortly after, the students were able to participate in a tour of the power transformer manufacturing facility.

NEW SOUTH WALES

When: 28 October 2014
Where: AusGrid
Trevor Armstrong (COO) presented bursary awards to 8 new students. Following the ceremony, a tour of the Learning Centre was given.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

When: 5 November 2014
Where: SA Power Networks
Two awards were presented by Robert Stobbe, the CEO of SA Power Networks, before students were given a tour of ElectraNet City West Substation.

TASMANIA

When: 14 November
Where: TasNetworks
Lance Balcombe the CEO of TasNetworks presented 3 new bursaries to students.

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