In order to meet the goals mentioned above, The Australian Power Institute has been setting forth positive initiatives and providing training outlets for industry advancements. The latest initiatives API has been working on are briefly summarised in this API overview.
**MASTER CLASSES**

API organises a series of intensive Master Class courses, specifically designed to refresh and boost the knowledge of current and upcoming industry professionals. These courses are held at various locations across the nation. API is also looking into rolling out a new online Masterclass portal soon allowing for effortless accessibility to all participants, stay tuned for more information!

The courses consist of two days of intensive training including lectures, key speaker presentations and shared insight to experience from current industry professionals.

The API, along with James Stokes (Jarrah Solutions) and Tony Bennett (BetterChange), successfully concluded a Masterclass on Engineering Change in Perth. Participants described this course as “interactive, mind-opening, and challenging”. Unanimously the participants deemed the course as invaluable with a few of the comments shown below.

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“Great course, covering essential aspects of successful change management. The engineering change master class provided a good balance of technology examples, financial analysis and humanistic psychology.”

“The skills contained within this course will empower you to effectively plan, work with others pitch to the business to create meaningful change within your company.”

“Really well paced course with practical lessons which allowed all participants to think together to tackle key issues. These are lessons which can be applied in day to day jobs”

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**BURSARY PROGRAM & STELR**

API is committed to supporting the education and professional development of up and coming power engineers, therefore offers power-engineering Bursaries to university students interested in obtaining a career within the industry.

The bursaries provide a cash value of $8,000 and provide a support system to help students successfully complete their degree and to provide a platform for networking opportunities to help students transition into the workforce more effectively. There are currently 121 active API bursary holders.

Extensive promotion of the API bursary program has been undertaken at all universities with a commitment to power engineering across Australia. In 2015, API received 206 applications and was able to award 20 new bursaries across the nation.

API also 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 reusable model solar car kits for up 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.

We are proud to announce that the STELR program has been recognised as one of the best STEM education programs in Australia having been awarded a place in the PwC 21st Century Minds Accelerator program.
**SUMMER SCHOOL**

API Summer School is an intensive two week residential program, hosted in a different state each year, that provides learning in a first class environment. The daily schedules include a varied blend of learning styles from lectures, presenters, case studies, syndicate work and site visits.

Consistent survey statistics from previous participants show that Delegates consider it an honor to attend the annual API Summer School program. Overall evaluation; 68+% rated the Summer School “Excellent”, with 29+% rating it “Good Value” and 100% of delegates responded that they are prepared to recommend the Program to their colleagues and managers.

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**2015 Participant Testimonials**

“The lectures, tours and talks will definitely build on your kit bag of tools which you can draw upon as you progress through your career. The two weeks is well worth the effort and the API personnel are able to make it fun. It's like going back to school but this time you're well aware that it's going to lead you to the path to success!”

“The API Summer School provided an excellent opportunity to network, gain a big picture industry perspective and advance insight into multiple organisations. It has truly been an empowering experience.”

“The API Summer School attracts the highest caliber of speakers in the industry, who have both expertise in subject matter and a vision. The delegates also are of the highest quality. Its a journey that should inspire most, if not all, participants to be industry visionaries.”

“The API summer school is a fantastic opportunity to learn from some of the top academic lecturers and senior industry managers in the country, while also networking with other power engineers. I consider it to be a career highlight and will always look back fondly on my experience.”

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**POWER STATION CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE**

API PowerChem Conference is the biennial event for power station chemists and their suppliers. The 2014 program was held from Sunday 25 to Wednesday 28 May on The Sunshine Coast, QLD. The 2016 program will be held in Wollongong, NSW from May 22 – 26th 2016. For more information or to register visit the “PowerChem” tab on the API website at www.api.edu.au.

The conference is composed of a diverse range of key speakers, exhibitors, and three days of lectures. The primary aim of the conference is to provide up-to-date professional development for those working in the industry globally as well as those associated with it.

The format of the conference allows close interaction between speakers, presenters, exhibitors and delegates, with a number of training courses also available. This event is a great way to catch up on the latest in power station chemistry, view the exhibitor showcase of technologies and review new products.

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“This conference is the only forum in the PowerChem industry and therefore is the perfect opportunity to network by renewing contacts and building new relationships with nationwide and international industry colleagues.” – Colin Gwynne (Aurecon)
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING AND MENTORING PROGRAM

As the industry is genuinely keen to increase female representation in engineering roles, API encourages female university students to apply for academic bursaries. API has recently teamed up with University of Queensland while conducting a survey to understand both male and female personal experiences and perceptions within the workforce. API has continued this research by organising a series of focus groups (facilitated by ThoughtPlace) in order to further understand workplace perceptions and issues seen amongst the engineering industry in order to help bridge the gap between university and industry.

In addition, API also provides mentoring support for existing female Bursary holders. Mentors are comprised of experienced female industry professionals that are a part of API member companies. API has commenced the mentoring program in VIC and WA, and will be implementing the program in other states progressively over the next six months.

**Key objectives of the mentoring program are to:**

- Provide students with someone in the industry who can provide them some guidance of how the theory at university links to the application in industry for power engineering related subjects.
- Provide students with some guidance of final year thesis/project topics and if appropriate assist with industry input.
- Provide students with guidance and information about the support given to female engineers within the energy industry.

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