Mission MESA Students Team Up with Cisco for Mentor Program

MESA students will gain insight and knowledge from Cisco employees during a new mentor program.

Three MESA students from Mission College attended a shadow day last week at the networking giant’s San Jose headquarters to launch the year-long program. Cisco employees shared about the company and led tours. A panel of Cisco employees who are MESA alumni also answered student questions.

The Mission students are among 30 specially chosen from six Northern California MESA centers. Andrew Rynhard, Electrical Engineering Major, Sophomore; Amy Snodgrass, Industrial Engineering Major, Junior; and Van Vu, Electrical Engineering Major, Sophomore were picked to be among the first class of Cisco MESA mentees.

“Meeting my mentor was a great experience. I hope to learn a ton from her,” said Snodgrass.

The mentees and mentors will meet monthly online for one year to discuss career interests, leadership, and other topics. The pairs were carefully chosen based on major and career interests and signed an agreement as part of the year-long commitment. Participants are from the following MESA centers: Cañada College, Gavilan College, Hartnell College, Mission College, UC Santa Cruz and San Jose State.

The Cisco mentor program is an example of MESA’s strong partnership with industry, which is a large motivator behind its success.

MESA is one of the largest programs in the state to support educationally disadvantaged students so they can graduate from college with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees. MESA provides academic support and enrichment to more than 20,000 K-12 students and more than 7,800 community college and university students each year.

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