Broadening Contexts to Broaden Participation in Engineering

Much work has been done and is being done to increase the number and diversity of students choosing an engineering career pathway. The evaluation of various curricular and programmatic interventions aimed at improving students’ attitudes and beliefs about engineering have documented success in the form of increased positive gains. However, the numbers of students choosing engineering career pathways has not seen any significant change.

In this interactive presentation, Dr. Hynes will present his hypothesis that current engineering education outreach activities have done a great job at appealing to students’ situational interests, but not such a great job at appealing to diverse students’ personal interests. The presentation will include discussion of data from a study on students’ interests and understandings of engineering, a framework for engineering activities that integrate students’ personal interests, and rich examples of such activities.

Date: 2/19/16  Time: 9-1pm
Location: Regency Room, Holmes Student Center.
RSVP: # 815-753-9222  @ promise_scholars@niu.edu
RSVP no later than 2/12/16 as space is limited for this event.

Dr. Morgan Hynes is an Assistant Professor in the School of Engineering Education at Purdue University and Director of the FACE Lab research group (engineering.purdue.edu/facelab).

In his research, Hynes explores the use of engineering to integrate academic subjects in K-12 classrooms. Specific research interests include how broad contexts for engineering activities can appeal to a more diverse group of students; how pre-college students engage in engineering design practices; and; the relationships among the attitudes, beliefs, motivation, cognitive skills, and engineering skills of K-16 engineering learners.

He currently serves as the chair of the American Society of Engineering Education’s (ASEE) Pre-College Engineering Education Division’s Diversity Committee, and Thought Leader for Pre-College Engineering Engagement for the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Administrators (NAMEPA). He is an NSF CAREER recipient for his project titled, Broadening Contexts to Motivate Engagement in Engineering.

Lunch is provided for this event!