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# COE Black History And Engineers Week

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## A message from Tresa Pollock, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering

Dear College of Engineering (COE) Family,

Each February, we celebrate National Black History Month and National Engineers Week.

Black History Month pays tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled to achieve full citizenship in American society. President Gerald Ford expanded the celebration to a month in 1976 to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." In honor of Black History Month, the college created a [webpage](#) to recognize and honor impactful African American engineers and their significant contributions to engineering and related STEM disciplines. I encourage all of us to keep thinking about how we can build upon the legacy of these impactful engineers and scientists whose work made our world a better place. We must continue striving every day, not just today or this month, to ensure that all people receive equitable treatment, have equal access to opportunities, and are supported to achieve their potential, both at UCSB and beyond.

Sunday marked the beginning of National Engineers Week, which the National Society of Professional Engineers started seventy-one years ago to call attention to the contributions that engineers make to society. To help spread the word, the college has once again partnered with eight other UC campuses to highlight on social media the impactful research conducted by UC engineers. The campaign will showcase alumni, faculty, and students from the UC system. [Click here](#) to view a short video used to kick off the campaign. (The first few seconds should look familiar.)

National Engineers Week was also started to ensure a diverse and inclusive future engineering workforce by increasing interest in STEM careers among underrepresented groups. Diversity is indispensable in engineering and other STEM fields, because the varied perspectives and experiences it brings enhance creativity and innovation, leading to better solutions that reflect a broader range of needs. Our goal at COE remains to become a more-diverse and more-inclusive institution, one that supports, validates, and honors all individuals from every community, as well as the tremendous variety of their lived experiences and the contributions arising from them.

Remember, as engineers, all of us have at least one thing in common: a desire to make the world a better place.

In gratitude,

Tresa Pollock, Interim Dean and Alcoa Professor of Materials  
UC Santa Barbara College of Engineering

[Read about Impactful Black Engineers](#)



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