

ASEE 2014-2015 ASEE Engineering Research Council Report

submitted by

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The Engineering Research Council had a productive 2014-2015 year.

One of the Council's primary activities is to plan and host a three-day conference on Engineering Research, which was held on March 9-11, 2015. The conference is primarily attended by engineering research leaders such as associate deans for research, and has two primary goals. The first is to provide an overview of federal R&D budgets and upcoming priorities. More than 20 speakers presented at the conference, many providing research landscape overviews of the major federal engineering research funding organizations including NSF, NIH, DOE, DoD, and NIST. The second goal is to equip research leaders with tools to more effectively lead their research programs. The conference included a one half-day workshop and a two-hour session focusing on various challenges facing academic research leaders and some best practices for addressing these challenges. Overall, conference was very well regarded – more than 93% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the quality of the conference and the experience as a whole

The Council also managed the nomination and selection process for the ASEE Curtis McGraw award. The 2015 winner, Steven R. Little at University Pittsburgh, was selected from a field of more than 20 outstanding candidates. Professor Little was recognized for his exceptional contributions to fundamentals in the field of controlled release and his contributions to the establishment of the nascent field of biomimetic delivery.

At the ASEE annual meeting in June 2015, the ERC hosted a panel session entitled “Enhancing Proposal Development and Finding Funding Opportunities.” The panel focused on strategies to obtain sponsored research funding, aimed primarily at early-career faculty members. Panelists provided expert insights on navigating a large federal funding agency, on pursuing funding for multidisciplinary research funding, and on how to locate potential research sponsors. The workshop had more than 40 attendees, consisting primarily of early career faculty members and graduate students who are considering an academic career.

The ERC also co-sponsored a distinguished lecture series at the 2015 Annual meeting entitled “Unifying the Enablers for Innovation and the Talent for Making Value for America” that summarized findings of a recent NAE “Making Value for America” project and of the U.S. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) created the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) study to recommend improvements to the innovation ecosystem, secure the talent pipeline and improve the business climate. The series included distinguished manufacturing experts from academia, industry, and government.