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**MSU Engineering sets enrollment benchmarks for welcoming women and underrepresented minorities**

In an era when attracting women and minorities into STEM fields is an uphill battle, the Michigan State University College of Engineering will welcome its largest and most diverse group of undergraduate students ever this fall.

Spartan Engineering will set enrollment benchmarks in 2018-19, including most women in the entering freshmen class and most women undergraduates.

There will be 383 women, or 23 percent, of the entering freshman class.

Among all undergraduates, there will be more than 1,300 women or 22 percent of this year’s engineering student body.

The college also will welcome 142 African Americans, 97 Hispanic students, and 57 multi-cultural students among entering undergraduate students.

The college’s domestic underrepresented minorities enrollment is nearing 20 percent.

The college will also welcome more than 900 graduate students -- an enrollment benchmark for graduate students, too.

Leo Kempel, dean of the College of Engineering, said he is heartened by the trust that entering students and their families put in an education from Spartan Engineering.

“These bright, innovative, and industrious students will make their mark on the college during their time at MSU. They will go forth to improve Michigan, the region, nation, and world through the creation and use of technology.”

**Unofficial Enrollment At A Glance (as compared to August 2017)**

Undergraduates: 5,922, up from 5,660
Women undergraduates: 1,300+, up from around 1,200
Graduate students: 901, up from 813
Entering freshmen: 1,649, up from 1,434
Entering women: 383, up from 299
Entering African Americans: 142, up from 102
Entering Hispanics: 97, up from 74
Entering Multicultural: 57, up from 44

All entering engineering freshmen will be welcomed during the annual Undergraduate Colloquium and Resource Fair on Tuesday, Aug. 28, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Breslin Center. Student groups and local businesses will be on hand to help entering students sign up for activities and services to kick off their Spartan experience.

Official enrollment figures will be available in October, but College of Engineering officials expect to welcome 5,922 undergraduates and 901 graduate students for the 2018-19 academic year. Graduate students and faculty members will be welcomed with an orientation and picnic at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 28, in the courtyard at the Engineering Building.

Michigan State University
MSU’s incoming freshman class is predicted to be the largest and most diverse in the school’s history, with more than 8,400 anticipated students. MSU will welcome 15,000 students into its residence halls on Aug. 25-26. Welcome events begin on Sunday, Aug. 26. Classes begin on Wednesday, Aug. 29.

The colleges of Arts and Letters, Engineering, Natural Science, Nursing and Social Science all reflect double-digit freshman enrollment increases.

According to preliminary data, the 2018-19 freshman class represents the second-largest domestic non-resident total in university history.

More at: MSU to welcome largest, most diverse class in 2018-19
Related Website: Communications contact: Patricia Mroczek