IEPECG QUARTERLY

Spring / Summer 2026

Supporting Engineers at Every Stage of Their Career

830 MEMBERS STRONG

✓ Caltrans
✓ California Air Resources Board
✓ State Water Resources Control Board

President's Message

Dear Inland Empire Section Members,

As we reflect on the first half of 2026, I am proud of the work our Section continues to accomplish on behalf of our members and the communities we serve.

This issue highlights the many ways IEPECG is investing in engineers at every stage of their career—from science fair outreach and student scholarships to professional licensure support, Lunch & Learn programs, member socials, leadership development, and retiree engagement.

These accomplishments are possible because members and volunteers continue to show up, contribute, and help build a stronger professional community across the Inland Empire.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. I look forward to everything we will accomplish together during the remainder of the year.

Respectfully,
Leo G. Ortega III, P.E.
President, PECG Inland Empire Section

IEPECG's spring/summer snapshot highlights member engagement, outreach, and professional development.

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Why Membership Matters

More than representation — your membership supports programs, people, and professional community.

When people think about PECG, they often think first about collective bargaining, contract negotiations, and workplace representation. Those functions remain critically important, but membership in the Inland Empire Section also provides opportunities that extend well beyond the workplace.

Throughout the first half of 2026, member support helped fund student scholarships, science fair outreach, professional licensure workshops, Lunch & Learn programs, networking events, retiree engagement, leadership development, and direct support for members navigating workplace changes.

Many of these activities are organized and delivered by volunteers who believe in investing in the future of the engineering profession.

Your Membership Supports

- Student scholarships and science fair outreach
- SHPE partnerships and college engagement
- Professional licensure workshops
- Lunch & Learn educational programs
- Networking and family-friendly events
- Retiree appreciation activities
- Leadership development and volunteer opportunities
- Member resource guidance and support

Whether helping a student discover engineering for the first time, assisting a member pursuing licensure, or creating space for members and families to connect, the impact of membership extends far beyond any single event.

“The true value of membership is measured by the opportunities we create together.”

Investing in Future Engineers

Science Fair Outreach and Student Recognition

One of the most rewarding responsibilities of our Section is supporting students who demonstrate curiosity, creativity, and dedication to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

This year, IEPECG volunteers supported regional science and engineering fairs, helped recognize outstanding projects, and continued the Section's tradition of investing in future engineers.

Science fairs allow students to connect classroom learning to real-world challenges while developing critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills. They also give students a chance to meet working engineers and technical professionals who can help inspire future career paths.

Riverside County Science Fair Winners

- Elementary Division: Sophia Strayhorne
- Junior Division: Jayden Thompson
- Senior Division: Aiden Grover

IEPECG representatives participate in SIMSEF student recognition activities.

Student award recipients are recognized during the SIMSEF Awards Ceremony.

Science Fair Impact

- 20 Science Fair volunteers
- 3,000+ students reached
- 8 scholarships supported
- Regional STEM outreach across the Inland Empire

SIMSEF Awards Ceremony

A major regional STEM event with students, families, educators, and community partners.

The SIMSEF Awards Ceremony celebrated student achievement across San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties.

Section representatives joined regional partners in recognizing outstanding student work.

Hundreds of students, families, educators, and supporters attended the awards ceremony

The event reinforces IEPECG's commitment to future engineers and STEM education.

"Supporting future engineers begins long before college. It starts by encouraging curiosity, innovation, and problem solving at a young age."

SHPE Partnership

Building the next generation of engineers.

The Inland Empire Section continued its partnership with the Cal Poly Pomona Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers chapter through student outreach, career awareness, and scholarship support.

On March 6, IEPECG officers welcomed SHPE students to the Inland Empire Transportation Management Center for a behind-the-scenes look at transportation operations, communications systems, emergency response coordination, and public service engineering careers.

The Section has committed to providing a $500 annual scholarship to a deserving SHPE student selected through the chapter's established process.

This partnership helps connect college students with working professionals and introduces them to career pathways in state service.

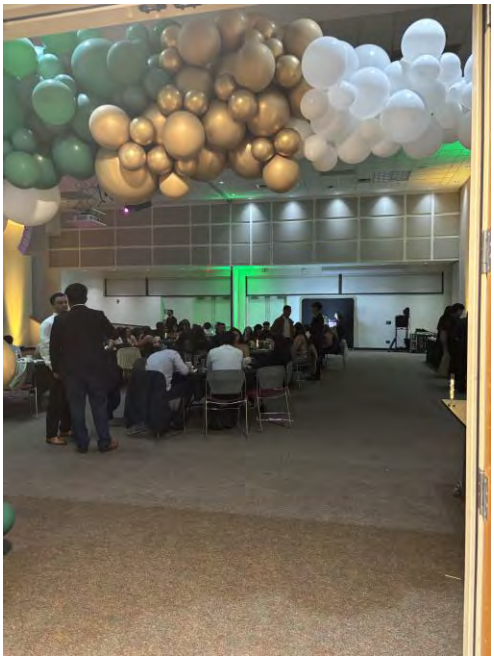
SHPE student achievement was recognized through IEPECG scholarship support.

Why Student Outreach Matters

- Builds future engineering talent
- Introduces students to public service careers
- Strengthens professional networks
- Supports diversity in engineering
- Encourages licensure and long-term growth

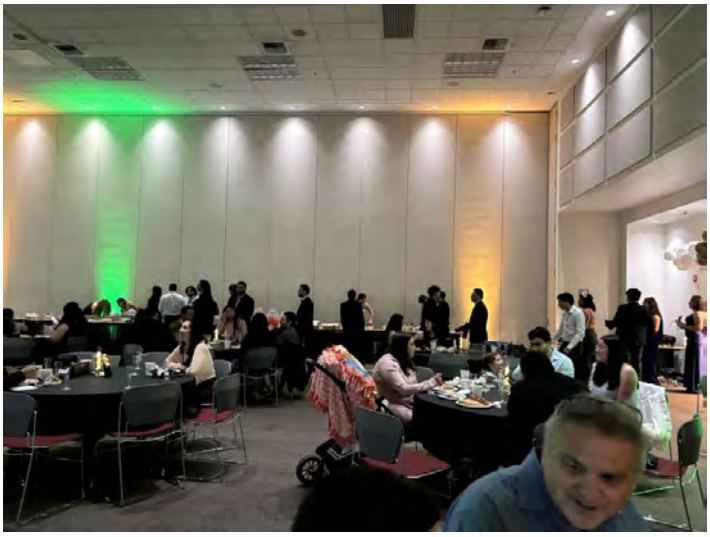
Cal Poly Pomona SHPE Banquet

IEPECG representatives attended the 43rd Annual SHPE Banquet and celebrated student achievement.



The SHPE banquet brought students, families, professionals, and supporters together to celebrate academic achievement.

IEPECG supports student organizations that help develop future engineers and leaders.



SHPE's mission aligns closely with IEPECG's commitment to mentoring and supporting the next generation.

Student outreach remains one of the Section's strongest long-term investments.

Helping Engineers Reach the Next Level

Professional Engineering Licensure Workshop

Professional licensure remains one of the most significant milestones in an engineer's career.

To support members pursuing this goal, the Inland Empire Section hosted a hybrid Professional Engineering Licensure Workshop. Approximately 20 members attended and received practical guidance on licensure requirements, examination pathways, reimbursement programs, and professional qualification compensation.

The session helped demystify the process from Engineer-in-Training through Professional Engineer licensure and provided attendees with an opportunity to ask questions in a supportive environment.

Workshop Topics

- Engineer-in-Training requirements
- PE examination process
- State-specific exam requirements
- Professional Qualification Compensation
- PLAP reimbursement resources
- Career advancement opportunities

Members attend the hybrid PE Licensure Workshop at the Caltrans District Office.

The workshop provided practical guidance for members pursuing professional licensure.

Participants discussed the PE licensure pathway, benefits, and available support resources.

Lunch & Learn Series

Professional development beyond the workplace.

The Section's Lunch & Learn program continues to provide members with practical information designed to support both professional and personal development.

March: Home Buying Workshop

Gladys Colon of Excellence Real Estate presented on the home-buying process, mortgage preparation, financing considerations, insurance, title and escrow, and common issues faced by first-time buyers.

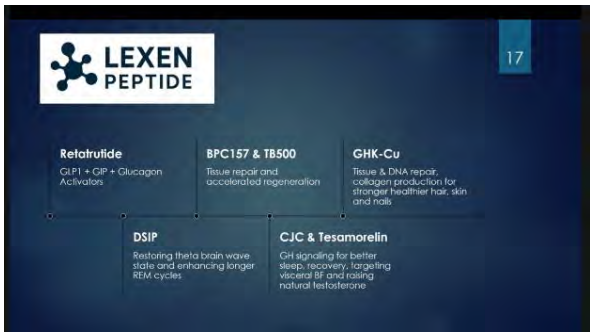
April: Health, Wellness, and Performance Optimization

Nick Linares delivered an engaging presentation covering nutrition, hydration, recovery, sleep, supplements, performance, and practical health strategies for busy professionals.

May: Disaster Preparedness

A planned presentation by David Smith on disaster preparedness and home resiliency was postponed due to a personal emergency and will be rescheduled.

Members participated in a virtual Lunch & Learn focused on home ownership and financial planning.



Nick Linares covered health, wellness, nutrition, recovery, and performance optimization.

The Lunch & Learn series gives members access to practical education beyond the workplace.

Member Support & Leadership Development

Behind-the-scenes work that strengthens the Section.

Supporting Members Through Change

Throughout 2026, IEPECG officers assisted more than a dozen members through one-on-one conversations, emails, and informal guidance regarding workplace changes, available resources, member benefits, professional development opportunities, and return-to-office questions.

Much of this work happens quietly, but it represents one of the most important services provided by Section volunteer leadership.

Developing Future Leaders

On May 14, IEPECG officers hosted a luncheon for four prospective future officers interested in serving the Section. The discussion covered officer responsibilities, event planning, member outreach, chapter operations, and volunteer opportunities.

Strong organizations invest in succession planning. IEPECG remains committed to developing future leaders who can help sustain the Section's success.

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

✓ Support student outreach
✓ Help plan events
✓ Share professional expertise
✓ Join committees
✓ Develop leadership skills

Sold-Out Bowling Social

Approximately 50 members, family members, and guests attended the IEPECG Bowling Social at Lucky Strike in Rancho Cucamonga.

Members and guests enjoyed an evening of bowling, food, and networking.

The sold-out event demonstrated strong demand for family-friendly member engagement.

IEPECG subsidized the event to help members and families participate.

Networking events help build relationships beyond the workplace.

"Strong professional organizations are built on relationships. Events like these create connections that last throughout an entire career."

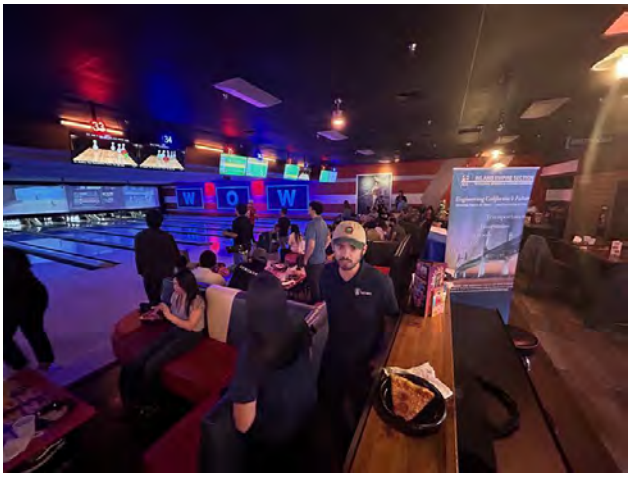
Bowling Social Photo Spread

A relaxed evening of professional community, family, and fun.

Members connected across agencies, disciplines, and career stages.

The event brought newer professionals, experienced members, families, and guests together.

Social events help newer members meet Section leaders and learn about future opportunities.



Events like the Bowling Social show members that their dues support meaningful engagement.

Retiree Engagement & Volunteer Spotlight

Recognizing the people who keep IEPECG moving forward.

Honoring Those Who Built the Profession

Current and retired members gathered for fellowship, lunch, and disc golf. The event reinforced an important message: retirees remain a valued part of the IEPECG family.

Retired members represent institutional knowledge, mentorship, friendship, and decades of service. Their continued involvement helps preserve the values and relationships that built the Section.

Retirees enjoying lunch together

Members getting ready to launch the frisbee

The People Behind the Programs

Every successful Section activity begins with volunteers. Whether judging science fair projects, coordinating scholarships, organizing events, presenting workshops, mentoring students, or helping members navigate workplace issues, volunteers remain the foundation of IEPECG.

- Science Fair outreach
- SHPE student programs
- Professional development workshops
- Lunch & Learn programs
- Bowling Social
- Retiree engagement
- Membership recruitment

Looking Ahead

Continuing the momentum through the second half of 2026.

Upcoming Priorities

- Additional Lunch & Learn programs
- Student recognition and TMC tour activities
- Future networking and social events
- Science fair follow-up activities
- Professional development workshops
- Membership recruitment and new employee outreach
- Future officer development

Volunteer Opportunities

The Inland Empire Section is always looking for members interested in supporting future programs. No previous experience is required. Sometimes the best way to get involved is simply showing up.

- Help coordinate events
- Judge science fair projects
- Support student tours
- Share professional expertise
- Serve as a future officer or committee volunteer

Section leadership continues encouraging members to get involved.

OUR GOAL

✓ Show real member value
✓ Support engineers at every career stage
✓ Strengthen professional community
✓ Build future leadership

Section Leadership & Contact Page

Inland Empire Section Board

- Leo Ortega – President
- Omar Perez – President Elect
- Michael Worland – Treasurer
- Aung Niang – Supervisory Rep
- Daniel Hormozi – VP at Large
- Matt Malouf – Secretary
- Tariq Jouzi – Member at Large
- Timothy Curran – Director

Thank You

Thank you to every volunteer, officer, retiree, student, presenter, member, family member, and partner who helped make the first half of 2026 successful.

Together, we continue supporting engineers at every stage of their career.

830 Members Strong
Serving Caltrans, Air Resources Board, and Water Board professionals throughout the Inland Empire.

IEPECG continues building professional community through member-focused programs and events.