Results

Data from WE Chat post-surveys from 2013 – 2015 indicate the following results:
1. Female students have increased levels of confidence as a result of attending WE Chats;
2. Female students have a desire to attend more events hosted by CPP WE;
3. Female students have an increased knowledge of the lives and careers of faculty members who participate in WE Chats;
4. Female students have an increased desire to seek modeling for careers and advice to women pursuing engineering degrees.

Discussion

Results from the post-surveys indicate that WE Chats provide opportunities for female students to thrive in the classroom and beyond in their careers. The four objectives of CPP WE are as follows:

Objective 1: To engage students through 12 outreach activities for young women to increase awareness of and exposure to multiple engineering programs and their impact on society.

Objective 2: To provide a web-oriented environment for prospective students to learn about College of Engineering and Women in Engineering programs.

Objective 3: To retain and graduate current female students by providing a supportive network of alumnae for female students to thrive in the classroom and beyond.

Objective 4: To create a supportive network of alumnae to provide mentoring to current female students and increase career opportunities for female students.

This study will examine in greater detail the efforts of CPP WE as it pertains to objective 3. CPP WE strives to achieve these goals through WE Chat, a program that provides female students with the opportunity to participate in conversations about their career paths in engineering, challenges they face, and advice to women pursuing engineering degrees.

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As one of the largest engineering colleges in the nation, Cal Poly Pomona is positioned to make a significant impact in increasing the number of women in the engineering workforce. The efforts of CPP WE programs, such as WE Chat, play a vital role in supporting female engineering students as they create environments conducive for female students to thrive in the classroom and beyond in their careers.

References


Limitations

Limitations to this study may include having a sample size of WE Chat attendees to complete the post-surveys and having lower response rates on some portions of the post-surveys.

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