Hosting a successful Grad Extravaganza

Read on for instructions and tips to host a Grad Extravaganza in the Engineering Education and Research Center (EER), the home of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department (ECE), located at 2501 Speedway, Austin, TX 78712. See map here.

Location: Texas ECE Grad Extravaganzas are held in EER 3.646 Blaschke Conference Room, in the North Tower.

Timing: Grad Extravaganzas are scheduled as follows:

4:30-5:00 PM: setup (A/V connection, swag, food delivery)
5:00-5:30 PM: Networking and socializing with graduate students & faculty
5:30-6:30 PM: Optional tech talk or professional skills workshop. Panels welcome! (if no talk or workshop, one hour will be designated for the social)

Set-up: The ECE department will provide two large trash bins and counters on which to set refreshments.

If you have shipped materials in advance of your event, they will be available during the 30 minutes setup period.

A/V: The conference room is equipped with an HDMI cord that is available to connect to the projection and audio systems. It is also possible to do so wirelessly. Please bring your own PC with the presentation already loaded.

Talk Details: Students offer this advice…

Be clear in your marketing pieces about what the session will cover so students know what to expect. Will the focus be a deep dive into a technical area? Will the focus be a workshop on a particular set of professional skills? A mix? A panel offering different viewpoints into technical areas of expertise?

Consider sending engineering and human resources representatives to better field questions about company culture, technical responsibilities, and the hiring process.

Bring multiple engineering participants of varying ages, if you can; each speaker can cover a particular technical area in some detail before passing to a second speaker with a fresh perspective or project.
Advertising: You will want to prepare a poster to advertise your presence in the EER building. Please provide a landscape-oriented, 16 x 9 inch ratio PowerPoint file. For best distribution to students, please send the file two weeks before your event.

Be sure to include on your poster the name of the event (ECE Grad Extravaganza hosted by “YOUR COMPANY NAME”), event start time (5 pm networking, 5:30 pm talk, if applicable), event location (EER building room number), company logo, and information about what students can expect. For example, talk/workshop topic(s)? Are you providing food, demos, or giveaway prizes?

Parking: If you bring a vehicle to campus, we suggest parking in one of the nearby university garages. The closest garages to the EER building are the San Jacinto Garage (2401 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78705) or the Speedway Garage (105 E. 27th St, Austin, TX 78712). Click for parking garage rates and info.

Catering: There are no restrictions on food. Please plan to order food for approximately 100 students. Consider burritos or tacos, ice cream, sandwiches. Local favorites are Torchy’s, Amy’s Ice Cream, and Fricano’s Deli.

Be sure that you or the food vendor provide plates, cups, napkins, etc.

Shipping: Materials for your event can be shipped in advance to the address below. Be sure to track all shipments, and make sure they are scheduled to arrive before the date of your event. Shipments that are scheduled to arrive the same day of your event may not be delivered on time.

If you need to ship materials after the event, be sure you have return labels and tape. UPS and FedEx both service our building and graduate student staff can provide your boxes to our shipping and receiving team the following day.

Ship To:
The University of Texas at Austin
Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept.
ATTN: Graduate ECE Extravaganza
2501 Speedway, Stop C0803, Room 2.864
Austin, TX 78712