Texas ECE Creative Events Ideas

Texas ECE students encourage companies to be creative and casual with interactions, and to break the mold from the typical technical talk. Teach something, create something, relax and unwind. To that end, this list is a starting point for thinking creatively about student engagement opportunities.

Use the student club hosts as a resource to help gather materials, plan the details, etc. Supplies and vendors are an additional cost if the students manage and will need to be paid in advance when event is booked.

Holidays

Valentine’s Day: Provide markers, construction paper, stickers, and other materials for students to make a Valentine’s Day greeting. Have festive snacks on hand, along with engineers and recruiters to facilitate and create casual conversation.

National Women’s Day: Host a panel of women technologists at different stages of their careers over lunch or dinner. Share specialty swag that may be remnants from Grace Hopper or Society of Women Engineers Conference. Raffle off a self-care package that is female focused.

Chinese New Year: Celebrate with traditional dumplings and other tasty treats. Bring red décor and party favors and materials for students to prepare blessing messages for the New Year.

Pi Day: Engineers unite in love for 3.14. Hand out mini pies and wish students well for midterms.

Thanksgiving week: Invite students to write a postcard of gratitude to friends, staff, faculty, or family and leave it with you to mail. Offer a small snack reward for completing and encourage share how your company gives back to the community.

Other ideas: Cinco de Mayo, First Day of Spring (hand out succulents, decorate a flower box), National Popcorn Day (or other indulgent food item), Diwali

Self-Care + Entertainment

Nail Night: Invite students to relax with you during some self-care. Bring polishes, nail files, polish remover, etc. for a group painting session that participants can take home. Consider bringing a few professionals to provide tips and a brief demonstration, and raffle the chance to have a few lucky participants have their nails professionally painted on site and at a nearby campus location in future.

Game Night: Play whiteboard Pictionary, host a videogame tournament (projected on classroom screens), or use the department’s collection of board games.

Therapy Dogs or Petting Zoo: Work with a student club to bring therapy dogs or petting zoo to the EER lawn.

Yoga: Invite an instructor for a 45 minutes session on mindfulness and stretching.
Build

UT Tower: Invite students to complete as individuals or small teams in building a UT Tower from graham crackers, frosting, and other edibles. Consider offering a prizes for different categories (tallest, most creative, etc.). Have snacks on hand, along with engineers and recruiters to facilitate and create casual conversation.

Gingerbread House: Provide gumdrops, jellybeans, frosting, graham crackers, sprinkles and other edible delights to encourage festive, stress-relieving fun at the end of the fall semester. A great way to usher in winter, and to casually visit with participants. Opportunity for engineers and recruiters to facilitate and judge entrants, and to offer prizes for “best of” categories.

Volunteer

Organize or invite students to an activity with a student club focused on service: food drives, natural area clean ups, K-12 STEM events, or other activities that your company might otherwise support.