



UCLA ENGINEERING PROPOSES CREATIVITY CENTER

To foster the creativity of future engineers, scientists and inventors, UCLA Engineering seeks to build a Creativity Center, a 5,000-square foot technology sandbox for UCLA engineering students, as well as aspiring high school students, teachers, advisors and parents.

“The Creativity Center will be a place for students to create, design, build, disassemble and re-engineer devices and gadgets of their own imagination,” said UCLA Engineering Dean Vijay K. Dhir. “So much of engineering starts with a spark of an idea then carrying it out. Beyond the classroom and labs, we wanted to have a dedicated place where students can let their creativity and imagination run loose.”

The center will be equipped with computers, open spaces, various tools, hardware, software, and equipment.

During the summer, a high school summer technology camp will be held at the center.

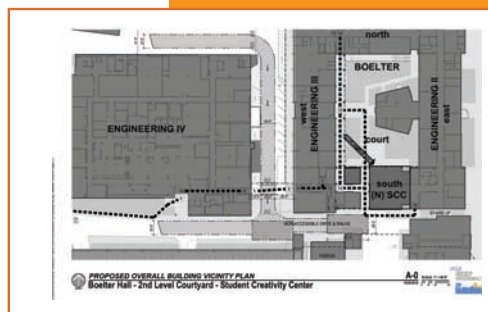
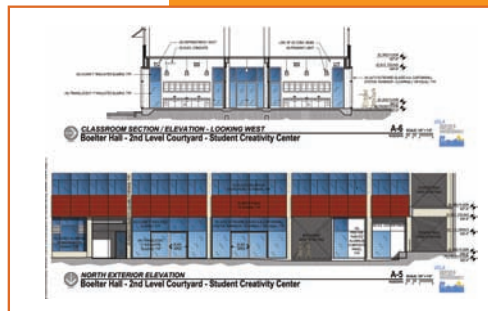
Throughout the academic year, the center will be home to several design-and-build student groups, such as the concrete canoe team; robotics; natcar and micromouse; rocket club and others.

It will also support other hands-on learning activities, and projects such as those sponsored by the Engineering Alumni Association.

The proposed center would be built inside part of the second floor courtyard of Boelter Hall. An effort to finance the center’s construction from private donors is already underway. ◆

To learn more about financing the center, contact Salvador Rivas at: srivas@support.ucla.edu

Architectural renderings of the layout and location of the center.



that are now spread out across multiple sites at the university.”

The new building will house the most advanced metrology and characterization equipment and will help accelerate research on nanoelectronics and spintronics, as well as green energy programs like those being addressed by WIN-GEM’s third center, the Energy Frontier Research Center on Molecularly Engineered Energy Materials, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

“This award is extremely timely, given the current state budget constraints,” said Jane P. Chang, associate dean of research and physical resources at UCLA Engineering and co-principal investigator of the project. “State-of-the-art infrastructure is greatly needed to support the innovative and critical work of our faculty. Furthermore, the green engineering and manufacturing aspects of the project are in line with both the direction of the city of Los Angeles and state of California and promise a greater impact when construction is completed.”

The NIST award was funded under the NIST Construction Grant Program. This project was chosen on the basis of scientific and technical merit, the need for federal funding, design quality and sustainability for the intended purpose, and the strength of the project-management plan. ◆