Student Outreach- For achievements in increase of student attendance/participation at chapter meetings, success in hosting an ASM Materials Student Camp, K-12 outreach event or engagement of local Material Advantage Student Chapter.

In the fall of 2018, the Los Angeles Chapter devised and hosted a Student Shark Tank Event. This event was held in collaboration with the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Materials Advantage Chapter.

In this “Student Shark Tank”, Cal Poly students gave 7 minute presentations on their current and planned research for the year. At Cal Poly, all Materials students participate in a research project on a yearly basis. In each pitch, the students would describe their plans on their given research project for the remainder of the school year, as well as how they would use a monetary award.

The goals of the event are many, one being to reward and support students in their research endeavors, two being to have the judges give guidance to the students on how they might improve their trajectory for the year, three being to provide the students a forum in which to practice their presentations with an award at stake. There is also a chance for the judges to provide the students with other research considerations and to steer students clear of any known dead ends. In its inaugural event, the judges consisted of ASM Executive Board members as well as the ASM International President, David Furrer, acting as celebrity judge. At the end of each presentation, the students had a few minutes for interaction with the judges.

The event began by Cal Poly Pomona down selecting 3 teams to compete for a $1,000 award to be used toward research supplies, conference participation, travel, or lab equipment. In this case, the award was self-funded by the Los Angeles Chapter. Each team consisted of multiple students (3-4). Future goals for expansion of the event are to include other universities and allow for more teams to present. The chapter would also desire to be able to provide additional monetary awards through a Chapter Council Grant.

This year, the event was held on the day of a Chapter meeting (Guest Speaker David Furrer). At the conclusion of the evening, with much anticipation from the students, the winners of the day’s Shark Tank event were announced. This encouraged many students to attend the chapter meeting, and garnered interest for future years and participants of the Student Shark Tank.