The National Academy of Engineering (NAE), a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., wants input from a variety of stakeholders about the challenges and needs they face in implementing engineering education from grades pre-kindergarten through 12.

On November 4, 2014, the NAE will host the third and final planned regional stakeholder workshop in the Pasadena, CA area to gather feedback for a project that will result in the development of a website to guide implementation of preK-12 engineering education. The first was conducted in Washington, D.C., in late June. The second took place in Minnesota in mid-August. Stakeholders of special interest are PreK-12 educators working in schools and after-/out-of-school settings; those who provide professional development to these educators and pre-service training to future teachers; and school, district, and state education leaders.

Input from all three events will be carefully considered by the committee overseeing the project and by the digital design firm that has been hired to build the website, which will provide both resources and a community of experts to support those engaged in precollege engineering education.

The NAE project is motivated by the increasing prevalence of PreK-12 engineering education in the United States. Engineering has a small footprint in US precollege education compared with efforts to teach science or mathematics, but it has been growing steadily for the past 15 years. Further impetus for the NAE project is provided by the recent publication of the Next Generation Science Standards, which create new expectations for science teachers to teach engineering design.

The NAE is partnering with four other organizations in this effort: Achieve, Inc.; National Science Teachers Association; American Society for Engineering Education; and International Technology and Engineering Educators Association. The project is made possible by the generous support of Chevron.

The November 4 workshop will include short presentations describing what engineering looks when done by PreK-12 students and how educators can be prepared to engage students in engineering activities. Small group discussions will be moderated by project committee members. Some of the day will be devoted to reviewing an early (alpha) version of the planned website. To make this possible, participants will need to bring a laptop that is able to access the Internet. The event is designed to give you a strong voice in shaping the final website. Expect to be actively engaged throughout the day!

Questions about the project or your participation in it can be directed to Beth Cady (ecady@nae.edu) or Greg Pearson (gpearson@nae.edu).