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HOW TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG ADULTS TO STUDY ENGINEERING

The obtaining of interest in engineering by young men and women was covered in the "Final Words" column (Winter 09-10) and was done well. But, I would add another major influence to that effort . . . that of parents. It would seem to be equally important to encourage moms and dads to sell engineering to their children, and in some cases the parents need to be educated about engineering.

I was the son of an engineer, and I was influenced to go to American Society for Metals meetings when I was 16 years old. I became interested in metallurgy, and when WWII was over, I headed to college for an engineering career. I went to Texas College of Mines in 1950 and Carnegie Tech in 1952. My four kids were encouraged to study engineering and one became

an engineer, one a nurse, one an accountant and one couldn't make college.

I feel that parents, guided by college representatives, have a major influence on what a child might be encouraged to do. So colleges need to put tools in Mom's and Dad's hands, too.

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