



In Touch with Industry
Through
Engineering Technology Education

SC ATE Center of Excellence Briefs

SC State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education

Winter 2000, Volume 2, Issue 2



Industries in FDTC and TCTC Areas Support Students in ATE Classes

Industries and two technical colleges worked together through the fall to support students in ATE classes.

To date, 18 students from Florence-Darlington Technical College and Tri-County Technical College have been identified as ATE Scholars or

apprentices and are working with sponsoring companies. Ten other scholarship awards are pending. A third ATE Scholars initiative, at Chesterfield-Marlboro Technical College, is getting under way this spring.

Students and employers are eager to share their experiences. Shawn Jackson and Brad Tindall, pictured at left, are SC ATE Scholars from FDTC at Honda of South Carolina Mfg., Inc. Both are electronics engineering technology students.

□ Brad Tindall: "Being in the ATE program has
(Continued on back)



Shawn Jackson and Brad Tindall



Aiken Technical College ATE students, fall 1999.

Number of ATE Students Nearly Doubles in 2nd Year

The number of students in ATE classes nearly doubled in 1999-2000.

Ninety-six students are in Technology Gateway or first-year engineering technology core classes this year. Last year 50 students participated in ATE pilot programs.

Four colleges offered Technology Gateway classes this past fall, enrolling 62 students. Eighty-eight percent completed the semester and 71 percent passed all courses.

Two colleges offered ET Core classes in the fall, with 34 students. Eighty-eight percent of the students completed the semester and 79 percent passed all courses.

Nine colleges have expressed interest in offering some component of the curriculum in 2000-2001.

Scholars, from page 1

really improved my self-confidence in working with others. Working in a team, I don't feel intimidated by other members of the team. I'm willing to jump in and give my part. I don't feel like I'm dead weight anymore, I'm actually pulling my own weight."

□ Shawn Jackson: "This will play a major part in helping me achieve my goals."



Jeff Helton

The skills are right in line with what industry needs today."

Leslie Abernathy from Tri-County Tech, pictured above at right, is a second-year student apprentice working at Robert Bosch Corp. in Anderson; she participated in ATE classes last year. All of the first-year Anderson Bosch apprentices participate in ATE classes.

□ Leslie Abernathy: "The experience that I gained in the ATE program helped me. Now I know that when I go



Nick Johnson of Bosch and Leslie Abernathy

out on the floor and there's a problem that I have to work with, I'm confident ...that I can get in there and solve (the problem) because I've solved problems before -- real-world problems -- and I'm confident that I can...bring people together as a team to get it done."

□ Eugene Grant of Bosch says students who have been through the ATE curriculum have been better equipped to solve problems in the workplace.



Eugene Grant

"I can't attribute anything we've done differently (at Bosch) because we haven't changed. The only thing that changed was the curriculum we were putting them through (the ATE curriculum at Tri-County). So this is our answer."

National Peer Review of ATE Curricula Conducted

As part of the SC ATE curricula development process, a panel of national experts reviewed curricular materials for the Technology Gateway (pre-engineering technology) and the engineering technology core first semester in September 1999.

Reviewer comments included:

- *The SC ATE approach will, I hope, be the future of ET education.* --Arnold Packer, John Hopkins University (SCANS Commission)
- *Such a worthwhile undertaking that needs to be known by others. Some students learn so differently-- and this project certainly will meet their needs.* -- Jim O'Neil, Edison Community College

SC ATE Briefs is published quarterly by the SC Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence, SC State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.

Elaine Craft, SC ATE Director
Barbara Gainey, Editor
<http://scate.org>

Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.



South Carolina Advanced Technological Education
Center of Excellence

SC State Board for Technical and
Comprehensive Education
111 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210-8424