



# SC ATE Briefs

SC Advanced Technological Education (SC ATE) Center of Excellence  
 SC Technical College System Winter 2002, Volume 4, Issue 1

## More ATE Options Result in Higher Enrollments

With South Carolina technical colleges offering the SC ATE curriculum approach in flexible formats to meet student needs, student enrollment is continuing to increase. According to preliminary faculty-reported data, the Spring 2002 semester boasts the largest ATE enrollment ever: 170 students at three colleges and one high school career center.

Options contributing to enrollment increases include:

- Multiple sections of day classes are offered.
- Students are beginning the ET Core (engineering technology first-year curriculum) in fall or spring

semesters. The ET Core consists of four integrated courses taught over three semesters.

- Evening ATE classes are available at Tri-County Technical College.
- Technology Gateway has been adapted for industrial technology students.
- ET Core is offered in flexible formats so that students may enroll in some but not all four ET

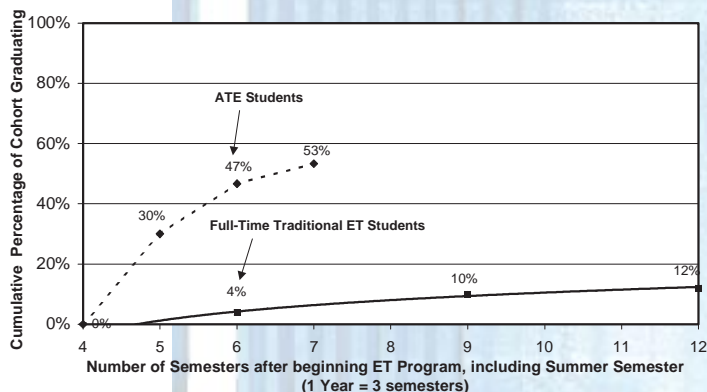
### SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 170 enrolled in ATE classes for the Spring 2002 semester, more than in any semester previously.
- ◆ 3 colleges and 1 high school career center participating.
- ◆ Average class size is 16.
- ◆ One-semester ATE Technology Gateway is being taught in the evening program.
- ◆ The ATE Technology Gateway has been adapted for industrial technology students.

### SC ATE Fast Facts

- ATE ET Core students are graduating at a rate roughly 10 times that of traditional engineering technology students.

Figure 3-6: Graduation Rates of ATE and Traditional ET Students



Source: Traditional students include all students enrolled in (1) an associate degree program (2) in the engineering program cluster, and (3) in the 1992, 1993, or 1994 cohorts and recorded in the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education database (N=1614). ATE student data include all those who enrolled in EGR 181, the first semester of the ET core, in Fall semester 1998 as reported by faculty (N= 30).

Taken from Reform of Engineering Technology Education: Fifth - Year Evaluation of the South Carolina Center for Advanced Technological Education, Academy for Educational Development, Washington, DC, March 2001.

classes. A student may already have an appropriate English credit and choose not to enroll in the ET Core communications class. For example, in one section at Piedmont Tech, 29 students are enrolled in the ET Core math class, 15 students are enrolled in the ET Core communications class, 24 are enrolled in ET Core physics and 25 are enrolled in ET Core engineering technology.

## SC ATE Instructional Leadership Institute Focuses on Cooperative Learning, Assessment

Drs. Roger Johnson and David Johnson, co-directors of the Cooperative Learning Center at the University of Minnesota, led 79 Instructional Leadership Institute (ILI) participants through two days



of active learning activities focused on cooperative learning and assessment. The November ILI was held at the Columbia Adam's Mark Hotel.



## Distance Ed, Portfolios, Study Skills Topics for ATE Faculty Development

From preparing courses for Internet delivery to teaching study skills, South Carolina technical college faculty are benefiting from faculty development opportunities offered through the SC ATE Center of Excellence.

Fall faculty development activities included:

- A two-day SOCKET (Student Oriented Comprehensive Knowledge Enhancement Technique) workshop, focusing on designing courses for Internet delivery and held at Trident Tech.
- A teleconference "Roundtable" on teaching study skills to industrial and engineering technology students. The Roundtable was hosted by Dr. Steve Cheshier, president emeritus and professor at Southern Polytechnic State University.

- The annual Instructional Leadership Institute.

Spring events include:

- A Queensborough Community College, N.Y., distance learning and remote-controlled laboratory workshop Jan. 29-Feb. 1 at Midlands Tech, Harbison campus.
- A Jan. 31 Roundtable on using portfolios to assess student learning.
- A second SOCKET workshop set for March 13-14 at Greenville Tech.

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