



# SC ATE Briefs

SC Advanced Technological Education (SC ATE) Center of Excellence  
ET Education National Resource Center, Florence, South Carolina  
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## SC ATE Turns 10!



*Elaine Craft, Dennis Bartels, Jack Johnston, Lynn Mack,  
Helen Edens, and James Wood*

A celebration was held in Greenwood, South Carolina on March 4 during the 2004 National Visiting Committee (NVC) meeting for the SC ATE Center of Excellence. 2004 marks the tenth anniversary of the SC ATE initiative. In 1994, South Carolina received a planning grant from the National Science Foundation to develop an Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Center of Excellence focusing on engineering technology education. In the intervening years, SC ATE has grown beyond the initial partnership of 16 colleges in the SC Technical College System and now provides expertise and resources nationwide for technician preparation in two-year colleges. Original principal investigators Elaine L. Craft, Lynn G. Mack, and

James C. Wood were joined by long-time staff member, Helen Edens, and original NVC members, Dennis Bartels and Jack Johnston, in blowing out candles and cutting a birthday cake.

## SC ATE Curriculum Very Highly Rated

In an independent study conducted by Western Michigan University in 2003, the SC ATE ET Core Curriculum was rated 4.0 (on a 0-4.0 scale) in “its effectiveness in helping students learn the knowledge and skills and/or practices needed to be successful in the technical workplace.” SC ATE now serves as a National Resource Center for Engineering Technology Education and promotes use of the highly-rated SC ATE Curriculum that has proven to increase student retention, diversity in ET programs, workplace readiness, and graduation rates. The SC ATE curriculum adds relevance to learning by integrating physics, mathematics, communications, and engineering technology through the process of solving industry-type problems. For students, the question “Why am I learning this?” is answered every day. Problem-solving, teamwork among instructors and students, and constant use of written and oral communications are integral to the learning process and increase workplace readiness.



# SC ATE Faculty Strive to Make Continuous Improvements

The SC ATE Faculty attended a 2-day Professional Development Meeting in February to share best practices in teaching the SC ATE curriculum for first-year engineering technology students. ATE teams from Florence-Darlington and Piedmont Technical Colleges shared teaching demonstrations, content integration techniques, and tools for assessing student learning.

Eileen Maness from the Berkeley-Dorchester Math and Science Hub in Charleston, SC provided a workshop on best practices. James C. Wood, Jr. from Tri-County Technical College, and Eileen then provided reflections on the ATE team teaching demonstrations.



*Florence-Darlington Technical College Faculty and Staff*



*Piedmont Technical College Faculty and Staff*



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