



# 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 Center

### 1st Year Milestones as National Resource Center; NSF Approval Granted for 2nd ATE Grant



As the SC ATE Center of Excellence wraps up its first year as a National Resource Center for engineering technology education, Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, SC, and Florence-Darlington Technical College are continuing their collaboration in this initiative by celebrating past achievements and planning for the future. The National Science Foundation has recognized SC ATE's achievements by granting continued funding for the 2003-04 year and approving additional funding (\$797,525 over three years) for a new *Fast Track to ET* project.

*Fast Track* will develop and implement strategies to assist in three areas: recruitment, retention and on-time degree completion. The project will: (1) facilitate the reduction of credit-hour requirements for associate degrees in engineering technology (ET); (2) provide financially rewarding, work-based learning opportunities for ET majors; (3) adapt and implement marketing and student recruitment strategies; (4) develop and implement new peer and employer recruitment programs; (5) expand career awareness activities for middle and high school students; and, (6) leverage existing scholarships resources by increasing industry support through an expanded ATE Scholars program.

Other accomplishments in the past year are:

- A new web site, [www.scate.org](http://www.scate.org), was launched to focus on the needs of educators, students and industry.
- SC ATE classes reached a new high enrollment of 236 in fall 2002, and African-American participation reached a new high of 33 percent. With an additional 114 new ATE students enrolled in spring 2003, a total of 350 ATE students were served this academic year.
- Summer technology camps have been introduced or expanded at both Florence-Darlington Tech and Piedmont Tech.
- The SC ATE Scholars program has grown to include 17 industries that provide scholarships and paid internships for ET students.
- An ET image and marketing campaign is underway as a pilot for Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio. Piedmont and Florence-Darlington technical colleges are piloting the national marketing campaign to attract students into engineering technology careers. The campaign, featuring snappy, four-color materials (see graphic below), was

developed with a National Science Foundation grant at Sinclair. Campaign activities in South Carolina include movie ads, postcards sent to high school students, posters, and visits to high schools with industry leaders.

- Piedmont Tech was recognized as a 2003 Bellwether Award finalist; using the SC ATE approach in its ET

Let's get the  
ball rolling!



programs, PTC was recognized for faculty development, workplace, learner-centered curriculum design and industry involvement.

- An ET Career Ambassadors program is being initiated at Florence-Darlington Tech to recognize outstanding ET students and engage them as spokespersons to provide career guidance to peers and assist with recruitment activities for ET programs.
- Articulation agreements have been negotiated with South Carolina State University for 2-year to 4-year transfer of ATE students to complete a bachelor of science in ET.
- New high school implementations of SC ATE's Technology Gateway for dual credit are being considered, and teacher preparation has begun.
- Since September, more than 1,320 people have participated in SC ATE workshops or programs.

Twenty instructors participated in the May SC ATE teaching team training workshop in Columbia. Workshop participants included technical college, Claflin University, and high school faculty members. The training course familiarized instructors with the SC ATE integrated, problem-based curriculum and teaching methods.



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