



SC ATE Briefs

SC Advanced Technological Education (SC ATE) Center of Excellence
SC Technical College System Fall 2002, Volume 4, Issue 3

Objectives Set for SC ATE's National Resource Center For Engineering Technology Education (ET Ed)

Eight key objectives have been set for SC ATE's new ET Ed National Resource Center.

- ① Serve as a National Resource Center for improvement in engineering technology (ET) education.
- ② Refine and share successful SC ATE recruitment strategies (such as ATE Scholars and Technology Gateway for dual credit) and develop, pilot test and share new recruitment strategies.
- ③ Continue to use and share the SC ATE Technology Gateway (pre-engineering technology) curriculum and the ET Core (general education and introduction to technology courses).
- ④ Develop multiple course and curriculum scheduling options to increase use of the SC ATE curricula.
- ⑤ Share insights into organizational change issues that can support or hinder lasting improvement in the teaching/learning environment for engineering technology students.
- ⑥ Develop and pilot test a prototype ATE teaching team training via an interactive web-based workshop.
- ⑦ Leverage the experience of SC ATE's principal investigators, college administrators and faculty by providing mentoring for others as they adapt and implement SC ATE models, or otherwise address the special needs of beginning ET students.
- ⑧ Develop how the processes of project evaluation, program evaluation and accreditation can be linked to implement total quality improvement in the preparation of students for successful careers in engineering technology and beyond.

Activities previously funded by the Center, such as the Instructional Leadership Institute, will be replaced by outreach services for SC ATE curriculum implementation sites and other SC ATE partners.

Notable Quotes

"We look forward to continuing our relationship with area industries through the ATE program funded by the National Science Foundation. It has given our FDTC students invaluable training and our industry partners high skilled employees."

--Dr. Charles W. Gould, FDTC president

"We are very pleased to join with Florence-Darlington Technical College in this new National Science Foundation Resource Center venture. The need for engineering technology graduates is substantial, and it continues to grow. It is our intent to use funding to attract additional students into those programs and use state models to prepare graduates with skills specified by area industries."

--Dr. Lex D. Walters, PTC president

"SC ATE is transforming technician education by establishing innovative partnerships with industry. The new SC ATE National Resource Center will assist South Carolina on its way toward a knowledge-based economy by sharing successful engineering technology education practices throughout the country. As we shift toward higher technologies, the need for technicians increases and so will demand for a workforce utilizing leading-edge processes. We are delighted to continue our partnership with SC ATE and our technical colleges as they equip students for tomorrow's jobs in the new economy."

--Secretary of Commerce Charles S. Way, Jr.

Interactive SC ATE News Conference, July 23, 2002



Dr. Charles Gould, Florence-Darlington president, top left, announces the new NSF grant award at an interactive news conference that connected the system office in Columbia with Florence-Darlington Tech (FDTC) and Piedmont Tech (PTC). Speakers in Columbia



included Dr. Lex Walters, Piedmont president, middle, Dr. Jim Hudgins, executive director of the SC Technical College System, top right, and Doug McKay of the Department of Commerce, bottom right. Seated next to McKay is SC ATE Center Director Elaine Craft. Other speakers in Columbia were Doug McTeer, director of education policy at the Governor's Office, and FDTC business partner Ian Shaw of Wellman, Inc. Speaking from PTC were Herman Fletcher, plant manager at Cooper Power Systems and member of PTC's area commission, and Lynn Mack, SC ATE co-principal investigator and faculty member. Speaking from FDTC were Jeff Helton of Honda of SC, Inc., and student Gabi Van Kurin. Other administrators, faculty members and students attended the news conference from the two college sites.



Contact information for new Center

Elaine Craft, director and principal investigator for the SC ATE Center of Excellence, may be reached effective Sept. 1, 2002, at: SC ATE Center of Excellence, National Resource Center for Engineering Technology Education, Florence-Darlington Technical College, P.O. Box 100548, Florence, SC 29501-0548. Phone: 843-676-8545
E-mail: Elaine.Craft@fdtc.edu

SC ATE *Briefs* is published quarterly by the SC Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence, SC Technical College System, 111 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, SC 29210.

Elaine Craft, SC ATE Center 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.