



NEWS

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National Science Foundation Awards \$900,000 To Establish National Resource Center For Engineering Technology Education

Columbia, SC--Florence-Darlington Technical College President Dr. Charles Gould announced today (July 23, 2002) that the college, in partnership with Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, SC, has received a three-year \$900,000 National Science Foundation grant to establish a National Resource Center for engineering technology education.

The grant is effective Sept. 1.

The resource center is the next phase of work for the South Carolina Advanced Technological Education (SC ATE) Center of Excellence, originally funded by the National Science Foundation and SC Technical College System in 1996. SC ATE's main focus has been to increase the quantity, quality and diversity of engineering technology graduates to support economic development.

In transitioning to a campus-based Center, SC ATE and its Engineering Technology Education National Resource Center will develop and share new strategies to recruit engineering technicians for the workplace and share successful technician education practices with colleagues throughout the country.

Elaine Craft will remain Center director/principal investigator. Craft, a chemical engineer with an MBA degree, has led the work of the SC ATE Center of Excellence since its inception. Co-principal investigators for the new grant are Kamil Zakhour and Joshua Phiri at Florence-Darlington and Lynn Mack and Bill Ware at Piedmont. Zakhour is dean of engineering technology and has responsibility for engineering technology accreditation at Florence-Darlington. Dr. Phiri is a physicist who has taught the SC ATE curriculum and develops Internet-based courses.

Mack, director of instructional development at Piedmont Tech, served as principal investigator for a SC ATE faculty development project and as co-principal investigator for the SC ATE Center. Ware is electrical engineering technology coordinator at Piedmont. Both Mack and Ware teach the SC ATE curriculum.

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Partners in transforming engineering technology education

