

**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN WIRELESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LAUNCHES OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR LI TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**
Initiative Designed to Create Awareness of Emerging Tech Careers

STONY BROOK, N.Y., January 11th, 2007—Since the dotcom bubble burst in 2001, student interest in emerging technology, especially computer science and engineering, as major areas of study, has declined. While demand for programmers, network specialists, and computer engineers were negatively impacted from 2001-2003, new and exceptionally strong job markets have since emerged in biotechnology, homeland security, energy research, “smart” transportation, and even manufacturing. There has also been a rapid resurgence in information and wireless technology.

Of major concern, however, is that these surging growth areas have not been accompanied by any significant increase in engineering enrollment, as was the case in the late 1990’s. In fact, studies conducted by the United States Department of Labor have brought to light a severe reversal of that trend.

With the help of corporate partners such as Cisco Systems and Northrop-Grumman, Stony Brook University’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and its Center for Wireless and Information Technology are embarking on a comprehensive Outreach Program for Long Island Technology Education (OPLITE) to educate Long Island students about the job markets being created by the information and emerging technology surge.

Taking information technology as an example, by the year 2010, U.S. companies will need more than 500,000 additional IT workers. U.S. colleges, however, at the current rate of enrollment, will only be able to produce a maximum of 60,000 computer science graduates by that time. This will create a massive shortage of information technology job candidates locally and nationally. This shortage will inhibit growth in virtually every area of industry.

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The goal of OPLITE is to coordinate the outreach efforts of Stony Brook and other academic institutions with the programs of local and nationally based corporations, who are also reaching out to Long Island and Metropolitan New York area students. The hope is that a coordinated effort combining the resources and creativity of corporations and academic institutions will have a greater impact on the local high school population, reduce duplication of effort and maximize the effectiveness of all outreach efforts. It is anticipated that OPLITE will facilitate outreach to more levels of students, K-12, at more school districts throughout the region and with greater frequency. The www.CEWIT.org website will soon feature a calendar of all OPLITE student awareness programs.

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