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News Service

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Stevens signs cooperative pact with Ecuadorian university

Stevens Institute of Technology has concluded an Inter-Institutional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL), a prestigious technical university based in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The MOU was signed during an official ceremony held at Stevens July 7, 2003.

The signatories were Stevens' President, Dr. Harold J. Raveché (pictured right in photo), and Dr. Moisés Tacle, the current rector of the ESPOL university and a Stevens alumnus ('71, M.Eng. '72). > [View Photo](#) <

According to the memorandum, Stevens and ESPOL have agreed to "promote and expand international understanding, development and friendship by stimulating and supporting educational, professional and inter-cultural activities and projects among students, academic staff, and professional, technical and administrative staff of ESPOL and Stevens." The activities will include student, cultural, or staff exchange programs, visiting scholar programs, conjoint and double degree programs, as well as many other possibilities.

Stevens' Center for Improved Engineering and Science Education (CIESE), directed by Dr. Edward A. Friedman, has collaborated over the past several years with ESPOL on the implementation of the Ciber@prendiz (Cyberlearner) Project: Internet Applications to Improve Education, a curriculum and technology-based teacher professional development pilot program funded by the Inter-American Development Bank.

Launched in March 2002 and funded until October 2003, Ciber@prendiz focuses on training educators and administrators from Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Perú in the use of unique and compelling applications of the Internet in their classrooms and the integration of these resources into their existing local curricula.

These Internet-based applications and corresponding pedagogical methodologies that form the foundation of the project are based on the experience and materials developed by CIESE and presented in collaboration with faculty from Miami Dade Community College. In each of the participating countries, strategic partnerships were established with the universities and institutions; and in Ecuador, ESPOL coordinated and supported the implementation of the project on a national level. Similarly, strategic partnerships were established in Costa Rica and Perú with the Fundación Omar Dengo and the Universidad San Pablo, respectively; and Schools Online, a Silicon Valley philanthropic group, provided the schools with computers, wiring and other materials.

In addition to Dr. Raveché and Dr. Tacle, the following Stevens and ESPOL faculty attended the ceremony:

From Stevens:

Dean Jerry MacArthur Hultin, Wesley J. Howe School of Technology Management
Dr. Stuart Tewksbury, Director, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Dr. Stephen Bloom, Director, Computer Science
Dr. Edward Friedman, Director, CIESE
Joshua Koen, CIESE

From ESPOL:

Dr. Enrique Peláez, Director, CTI

For more information about ESPOL, please visit <http://www.espol.edu.ec>.

For more information about CIESE, please visit <http://www.k12science.org>.

For more information about the Ciber@prendiz (Cyberlearner) Project: Internet Applications to Improve Education, please visit <http://www.k12science.org/ciberaprendiz>.

Established in 1870, Stevens offers baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees in engineering, science, computer science, management and technology management, as well as a baccalaureate in the humanities and liberal arts, and in business and technology. The university has enrollments of approximately 1,740 undergraduates and 2,600 graduate students. Additional information may be obtained from its web page at www.stevens-tech.edu.

For the latest news about Stevens, visit www.StevensNewsService.com.

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