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News Service

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Stevens partners with Piscataway Township Schools to improve middle school mathematics through technology

\$84,000 grant from N.J. Dept of Education sponsors collaboration

HOBOKEN, N.J. — Stevens' Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) has begun a long-term partnership with Piscataway Township Schools to improve mathematics achievement through technology in the district's three middle schools: Theodore Schor, Quibbletown, and Conackamack.

The \$84,000 N.J. Department of Education-sponsored P-12 Higher Education/Public School Partnership Grant Program will enable teachers to receive 40 hours of hands-on professional development, mentoring and web-based support.

The program will enhance teachers' ability to teach key topics contained in the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA), designed to indicate student progress in mastering the knowledge and skills specified in the Core Curriculum Content Standards needed to pass the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA).

"The workshops will incorporate exemplary, field-tested, technology-based lessons designed to bolster teachers' content knowledge, instructional delivery, and student understanding of core curriculum topics," said Meg Turner, Manager of District Outreach Programs. "Technology resources will be used to promote visualization of complex concepts and demonstrate the relevance of mathematics to real-world issues."

The program builds upon the district approach to a standards-based, articulated scope and sequence for grades 6-8 mathematics, based on the principles contained in Understanding by Design (Wiggins & McTighe, 1998). CIESE mathematics staff developer Ihor Charischak will lead the workshops. Additional information on this and other CIESE K-12 professional development programs can be located by visiting: www.stevens.edu/ciese/pd.htm

About CIESE

CIESE was founded in 1988 to improve K-12 science and mathematics education through the use of technology. Since then, programs and activities have reached more than 22,000 educators worldwide, received grants and contracts totaling approximately \$25 million, and have received accolades from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Science Teachers Association, and others (see <http://www.ciese.org/awards.html>). CIESE offers professional development programs and services during the school year, and during the summer which focus on unique and compelling Internet applications for the K-12 classroom.

For further information about CIESE programs, contact Meg Turner at 201-216-5655, mtturner@stevens.edu, or visit www.stevens.edu/ciese

About Stevens Institute of Technology

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.edu.

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News related questions can be directed to 201-216-5687.

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