

Grant awarded to further science education

The Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology has been awarded a three-year, \$2-million grant from the New Jersey Department of Education. The grant will be used to fund the Partnership to Improve Student Achievement (PISA) project, in which partner organizations will work with 80 elementary teachers from 20 northern New Jersey schools (Hoboken, Weehawken, Jersey City, Newark, Bayonne and Union City) to improve teaching and learning in science and engineering.

The project is part of CIESE's "Engineering Our Future NJ" initiative. The PISA program seeks to:

- Improve/upgrade the status and stature of math and science teaching by forging connections with institutions of higher education for recruiting, training and advising.

- Maintain continuous, intensive professional development.

- Bring teachers into direct contact with practicing scientists, engineers and mathematicians to increase content knowledge.

- Develop more rigorous math and science curricula aligned with local and state content standards.

Stevens serves as the project's lead agency. University and museum partners include Montclair State University, the Liberty Science Center, Bank Street College of Education and the Boston Museum of Science.

Founded in 1988 to improve kindergarten through 12th grade science and mathematics education, CIESE received one of the nation's first grants to develop ways to use the Internet in K-12 education. Today, its educational Web sites attract more than 100,000 users from 35 countries.

The emphasis on engineering is

more recent. It is part of a nationwide trend to interest more students in engineering and promote technological literacy for all students, whether they pursue engineering careers or not. Hands-on engineering classes not only promote the value of engineering but also show how math and science relate to exciting, real-world challenges.

Participating local teachers and their schools are listed below:

Jotham W. Wakeman #6, Jersey City; Meagan O'Grady (Nutley); Theodore Roosevelt School, Weehawken; Brian Calligy (Bloomfield).

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