

Welcome Message From ITEEA President, Dr. Tom Bell.

Technology and Engineering Educators,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us for the premier professional development conference for technology and engineering education professionals—the 74th Annual ITEEA Conference, March 15-17, 2012. This year we will be hosted by a local California planning committee that has worked extremely hard to ensure that your time at the conference is both enjoyable and rewarding.

The theme for this year's conference is *Changing the Conversation: Improving K-16 Technology and Engineering*. With the name change two years ago, and the addition of engineering education, we have firmly established ourselves as the leading professional association concerned with providing and meeting the professional development needs of classroom teachers, supervisors, curriculum writers, and teacher educators who are interested in developing technological literacy.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Don P. Giddens, Dean of the College of Engineering at Georgia Tech. Dr. Giddens chaired the National Academy of Engineering's Committee on *Improving the Public Understanding of Engineering*. His report on "Changing the Conversation" specifically looked at how messages from various populations described the engineering profession. A better understanding of engineering would help educate the public for sustaining technological innovation, encourage young people to pursue engineering careers and improve technological literacy.

This year's conference will give us a chance to recognize the fine work of our colleagues. The Teacher Excellence and Program Excellence Awards represent the finest teachers and programs in each state. And our conference wouldn't be complete without a trip through the exhibit area. Please take the time to visit with vendors and see a complete line of tools, materials, and teaching resources to help you and your students excel.

On behalf of the ITEEA Board of Directors, I look forward to seeing you in Long Beach, California, March 15-17, 2012.

Let's have a great conference.

Sincerely,
Thomas P. Bell, Ph.D., DTE
ITEEA President 2011-2012