LinkEngineering Partner Update

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) held a LinkEngineering “partner” committee meeting in early December. The development and continued improvement of LinkEngineering is overseen by an expert committee and in partnership with five other organizations: Achieve Inc.; National Science Teachers Association; American Society for Engineering Education; International Technology and Engineering Educators Association; and Council of State Science Supervisors. One of the tasks requested of each partner organization is to communicate about the website and spread awareness. NAE is asking each of the partner organizations to encourage our leadership and general members to login, register, and create profiles as a “LinkEngineering” active user. All are encouraged to go to the website get started (http://LinkEngineering.org). It is a developing and dynamic resource that our field can gain from, as well as, add to in hopes of demonstrating what quality technology and engineering education looks like through an Integrative STEM Education lens. Our profession will benefit by having a strong ITEEA presence on this website. An additional goal is to conduct a webinar to teach and share this resource and connect it to our new website with our content as well.

ITEEA Participates in Virginia State Board of Education Public Hearing on “Engineering Licensure”

In late October, ITEEA Executive Director, Steve Barbato, made presentation to the Virginia State Board of Education (BoE) on behalf of ITEEA and its Virginia affiliate (VTEEA) regarding an urgent matter that is before them. There is an effort underway to change VA teacher licensure to add a new endorsement and program in Engineering Education that would adversely affect the states’ technology education certified teachers. VA is updating the licensure regulations for school personnel and regulations governing teacher preparation programs. A committee of technology educators proposed revised regulations for TE, which have made it through the initial review phases, but the new engineering endorsement made it through the initial review phases as well. This new engineering endorsement (proposed without the consultation of VTEEA, Children’s Engineering Council, or the technology education community in VA) with the explicit goal of teaching the engineering courses taught under technology education since 1988. The public hearing representation from our field was coordinated by ITEEA member Phil Reed. Phil and many VTEEA colleagues were present and all did well speaking in support of keeping the current TE licensure that includes engineering education and a pathway for engineers, architects, physicists, and industrial technologists to obtain licensure. The proposed technology education changes and proposed engineering endorsement can be found in the Virginia Register of Regulations (Vol 31, Issue 26; August 24, 2015). TE is about one-third of the way into the document and listed as 8VAC20-543-220. Career and technical education – technology education. The proposed engineering endorsement is almost halfway into the document and listed as 8VAC20-543-280. Engineering. Comments can be read and posted for both the proposed engineering license regulations AND program regulations.

ITEEA Launches First Animated “Explainer” Video

Past-President, Jim Boe, recently acquainted the HQ staff with RawShorts – an animated video “explainer” application and oversaw the creation of ITEEA’s first animated “explainer” video for ITEEA’s soon-to-be-unveiled website. The first video was successfully launched ITEEA’s YouTube site. We believe this technique helps to grab our audience’s attention in a fun and engaging way and hope to create more in the near future. Visit the ITEEA website at www.iteea.org to view the video.
ITEEA Endorses “Innovation: An American Imperative”
As an AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) affiliate, ITEEA was contacted in early October and asked to join a host of other organizations in endorsing “Innovation: An American Imperative.” In 2007 many organizations signed a similar document, titled “The American Innovation Proclamation,” which called for Congress to pursue an innovation agenda that would ensure U.S. competitiveness. The new call to action (which can be viewed at Innovation: An American Imperative) has been developed to bring together American industry, higher education, and science and engineering leaders to urge Congress to enact policies and make investments to help ensure that the U.S. remains the global innovation leader. Crafted by a group of university, business, and scientific organizations and already endorsed by several industry leaders, the statement addresses the innovation deficit noted in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 2014 Report, Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream, and provides seven areas of focus for Congressional action, including a stronger federal commitment towards improving STEM education, and more. ITEEA showed support by officially endorsing the statement.

ITEEA Challenges Members to Take the Global Engineer Day Pledge
DiscoverE is asking everyone to take a pledge to celebrate and share how engineers make a world of difference. In response and in support of this initiative, ITEEA has asked each of its members to take a moment to share what he or she is doing to grow the next generation of innovators. We have shared this request via all means of association communication, including social networking. We ask each of you to take the pledge and to encourage others to do so as well!

CONFERENCE NEWS

New Conference Opportunity
Maureen Wiley, ITEEA’s Director for Membership, Sales, and Marketing has been working diligently to raise the bar for the 2016 conference to engage more corporate participation and connect them with our technology and engineering educators. One example is a new opportunity offered at the 2016 conference through Carnegie Mellon’s Robotics Academy, a research organization and a world leader in educational robotics. They have partnered with ITEEA and are offering an incredible professional development opportunity to attend the 2016 conference. The offer includes the following:
• A Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy Certification course
• Professional Membership in ITEEA
• Access to this year’s ITEEA International Conference at the National Harbor in Washington, DC March 2-4, 2016 all for the price of an online course at Carnegie Mellon.

ITEEA will continue to promote this opportunity through its various social media outlets and website. CMU trains thousands of teachers per year and we anticipate that these sessions will fill quickly. For more information about the class or to learn more go to: http://www.robotc.net/iteea/

AWARDS NEWS

ITEEA Introduces NEW Teacher and Program Excellence Awards Process
Maureen Wiley recently led a group of ITEEA members to review the existing Teacher and Program Excellence Awards process and make changes to streamline and improve the existing procedures. Our goal is to significantly increase the number of elementary, middle, and high school Program and Teacher Excellence awardees from EVERY state. The changes are not intended to replace a state’s existing application process, but rather to enhance the opportunities for those states that need assistance. For more information, visit the Awards section of the ITEEA website. Your help in urging every state to deliver their awardees is critical to the success of this project.
ITEEA MEMBERSHIP

ITEEA is always on the lookout for new members to join us. We need YOU to make it happen! Please direct anyone who is interested to the Membership area of the ITEEA website at www.iteea.org.

ITEEA launches ITEEA STEM Leadership Advantage Program

ITEEA and TSA/TEAMS joined forces to invite all of the EbD network schools to take advantage of a new initiative known as ITEEA STEM Leadership Advantage Program. This program will provide the network schools with the following benefits:

• Membership in ITEEA’s Integrative STEM Education program – this is an excellent opportunity for ITEEA to add additional middle and high school group members to our growing portfolio of MS and HS Integrative STEM Members. This membership category serves as the catalyst for strengthening a core STEM team at the MS and HS level.

• An engineering competition opportunity through Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) for all students. TEAMS is a unique STEM competition for students in middle school and high school that allows them to apply their knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to real-world engineering challenges. This competition takes place at your school (no travel involved) on the day you choose between February 8th and March 20th and state-wide rankings are available in April.

ITEEA’s STEM Leadership Advantage Program is being offered exclusively to EbD™ schools until February 1, 2016 at a discounted rate.

TSA Promotes ITEEA Special Professional Membership Opportunity

In late October, the Technology Student Association (TSA) sent a special email to all of the TSA Chapter Advisors promoting our ITEEA professional membership special rate. To take advantage of this special offer, recipients were encouraged to visit the ITEEA membership page and use a code for a special membership rate. Please share this information with all TSA Advisors, encouraging them to become ACTIVE members in ITEEA!

ITEEA PUBLICATIONS

Children’s Technology and Engineering (CTE) Subscriptions Top 1000!

Subscriptions to ITEEA’s elementary Integrative STEM Education journal, Children’s Technology and Engineering, have topped the 1,000 mark! CTE has shown steady growth in its now 20-year history, but has experienced a surge in subscriptions over the past few years under leadership of (former) Field Editor Joey Rider-Bertrand and current Field Editor, Diana Cantu, who both have made enormous contributions to the improvement in quality of the journal. CTE has also instituted a new peer-review manuscript submission option as well as the return of a print subscription option.

OUTREACH INITIATIVES

ITEEA Represented at 102nd Mississippi Valley/STEC Conference

The 2015 combined Mississippi Valley Conference and Southeastern Technology Education Conference (STEC) was held November 5-6, 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee. ITEEA Executive Director, Steve Barbato, presided as a session chair (moderator) for the MVTTEC session strand - SESSION I: “Leadership Role for Technology and Engineering.” The four presenters provided an in-depth look at the topic and generated a rich discussion by the attendees with excellent questions that will drive future research topics in our field. The Mississippi Valley conference and STEC combine their programs every third year.
Membership Presentation at the ITEEA STEM® CTL Fall Leadership Forum

The ITEEA STEM® CTL annual Fall Leadership Forum was held in mid-September in Northern Virginia. The participants were highly engaged and enthusiastic about the opportunity to share what they know and appreciate about being a member and leader representing ITEEA. Maureen Wiley, Director of Membership, Sales, and Marketing, along with Miho Sato, Assistant for Membership, Sales, and Marketing, delivered an outstanding presentation that provided a comprehensive overview of the various membership options as well as the benefits of becoming an active participant member. Each Consortium leader was given the opportunity to nominate a peer for a one-year complimentary membership. The need to be active and engaged members was emphasized in order to make those inside and outside our field aware of the impact that technology and engineering educators have on their students as well as the importance of our role in leading STEM initiatives through Integrative STEM Education.

IdeaGarden Update

With the launch of the new ITEEA website in January comes an improved format for the Members-Only IdeaGarden listserv. The IdeaGarden is one of the most valuable member benefits offered by ITEEA. Beginning in 2001 with Gary Wynn and Ron Yuill moderating and motivating a modest group of active and dedicated members, IdeaGarden has since grown to over 300 subscribers who have found friendships, ideas, support, and solutions. Once a year the Gardeners have the opportunity to meet face to face at ITEEA’s annual conference. This is an exciting time for the field of Integrative STEM Education and for ITEEA. We are proud of the history we have with all of you and excited about the future. We strongly encourage members to jump in and plant a new crop of ideas in the New Year!