

Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology Department Heads Association (ECETDHA) Update

For those who don't know, the ECETDHA is the group within the Engineering Technology Division of ASEE whose purpose is to provide mechanisms for the collection and dissemination of information, opinions and viewpoints of administrators of electrical, electronic and related engineering technology programs with the aim of advancing the understanding and appreciation of these programs at all levels within both the public and the larger engineering technology community. The membership currently stands at 92 representatives from 35 different states.

The Association's primary activities over the past year have been the awarding of several mini-grants to faculty represented by the membership and managing the development of a prototype of a nationally-formed assessment test for electrical and electronic engineering technology programs.

The Association began a practice in 2007 of awarding as many as four mini-grants each year to deserving faculty represented by the membership. Awards proposals are accepted twice, once in the winter and once in the summer, and awards can range in value up to \$1000. During the 2007 - 2008 academic year, three awards were made, one each to Old Dominion University, Dutchess Community College, and Southern Polytechnic State University. Awards amounts ranged from \$650 to \$1000. Full details of the awards can be found at <<<http://www.engtech.org/Organizations%20Files/ECET.html>>>.

In 2007, the Association also undertook a project, funded by the IEEE and managed by the Society of Manufacturing Engineering, to develop a prototype of a nationally-formed assessment test that can be used by electrical and electronics engineering technology programs to evaluate how well their graduates are achieving the program's expectations. IEEE has provided the funding for the effort, and SME is providing management and data analysis expertise based on their certification test development experience. Association volunteers are providing the electrical and electronics expertise and are responsible for development of the appropriate body-of-knowledge and for generating and reviewing the actual questions that will make up the final test bank. As of June of this year the body-of-knowledge document has been generated, and the writing and review of questions for a core test bank is well underway. The plan is to have a prototype test ready for trial by late 2008. Again more details can be found at the web site noted above.