As an integral member of the Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) family, the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science (ETCS) continues to build on a legacy of community service. Our legacy has been built through activities like Associate Professor of Organizational Leadership and Supervision (OLS) Max Montesino’s involvement in the Hispanic community, Associate Professor of OLS Dina Mansour-Cole’s work with the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana, and a broad range of activities through which we share our technical expertise and leadership acumen. Because we are located in northeast Indiana where there is a strong presence of biomedical, defense, and other highly technical industries, it is a natural fit for us to be closely involved in the community. Whether partnering with industry leaders to bring practical and contemporary examples to the classroom, lending a hand in the not-for-profit sector, or working alongside middle and high school teachers to increase awareness for STEM-related fields through outreach—ETCS faculty and staff have long helped transform our region.

Hear what a few ETCS faculty and staff members have to say about their community service

Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering Elizabeth Thompson is representative of many colleagues who have discovered that a wide range of involvement pays big dividends in the classroom and personally. “During my time at IPFW, I’ve participated in a number of volunteer activities, including acting as the faculty adviser for the Society of Women Engineers and helping run the Middle School Career Day and Annual Opportunity Banquet. In addition, I work on the industry-sponsored senior design projects, which provide me with relevant, real-world examples to bring to the classroom. I find community service to be interesting, enjoyable, intellectually stimulating, and of a great benefit to our students.”

Many ETCS faculty and staff volunteer with a variety of not-for-profits. For example, Associate Professor and Associate Chair Robert Sedlmeyer shared these thoughts: “Since 2008, I have applied my expertise in Web technologies to address the needs of several non-profit organizations. The projects have provided opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students to participate in service learning experiences, advanced the missions of the client organizations, and promoted IPFW’s commitment to community engagement.”

Much of campus and community would probably be surprised by the extent to which ETCS sponsors outreach programs, primarily those geared to the K–12 population. Outreach Director Carol Dostal has seen the value of these programs and knows what makes them work. “Outreach is successful when volunteers play their pivotal role as judges, referees, mentors, coaches, presenters, or committee members. In any of these capacities, the community and faculty volunteers generously share their time and expertise which also conveys a subtle, but powerful message of encouragement and support for the pre-college students who visit IPFW and participate in outreach projects.”

Support staff member Mike Pressler serves as another example of how the outreach programs make a difference. “My community involvement experience includes providing technical support (computer, Web, etc.) for the FIRST® LEGO® League Indiana Championship Tournament, Indiana Future City® Competition, and Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair. I participate in these important outreach events not only because I feel that this is my job responsibility, but also because it’s very rewarding to see the ways our future engineers, technicians, and scientists think.”

You can help our legacy continue

Through community service, ETCS has played a transformative role in the lives of students, at not-for-profits, and in our STEM-related business partners. If you’d like to know more or want to get involved to help ETCS continue our legacy of service, visit our website at etcs.ipfw.edu.
Two Centers of Excellence Position IPFW, ETCS

Center for Leadership Development—IPFW as top-of-mind resource for leaders

The Center for Leadership Development (CLD), a Center of Excellence within the Department of Organizational Leadership and Supervision (OLS) in IPFW’s College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science will benefit our campus, community, and beyond by meeting northeast Indiana’s needs for innovative, multi-disciplinary, research-based leadership initiatives.

Increasingly, leadership is recognized as a key differentiator in the success of all types of organizations. By solidifying our place as the hub of leadership initiatives in the region, the center will show that progress and innovation truly are part of our culture at IPFW and that we continue to add value in attracting and retaining key employers.

Organizational Leadership and Supervision Chair Linda Hite believes the time is right for this type of initiative and IPFW has the faculty expertise, student and alumni talent, and solid partnerships in the business community to bring it together. “One of our goals is to make the IPFW Center for Leadership Development synonymous with innovative leadership by adding value to businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, and individuals in the region.”

Given the multi-disciplinary nature of leadership, the CLD looks forward to working with a wide variety of campus and community partners. (The new Center of Excellence in Systems Engineering, a natural collaborator, is highlighted in this issue as well.) Collaboration has been an important touchstone from the CLD’s very inception. Collaboration has been an important part of the CLD from the beginning. Teams of faculty, staff, and community partners have invested their enthusiasm and dedication to bring this new center to life.

Currently, CLD will begin operations from the OLS office; however, the ultimate goal is to acquire space to conduct research and experiential learning. Feel free to stop by or contact us at 481-6421. We are very excited about this new center and would welcome the opportunity to share more about how we can help your organization stand out through stronger leadership.

2013 Calendar of Events

January 19  
Indiana Future City® Competition
Walb Student Union Ballroom

February 23  
Engineer’s Week Bridge Building Contest
9 a.m.–1 p.m.  
ET Lobby

March 22,  
Opportunity Banquet
Networking: 4:30–6:30 p.m.  
Dinner and presentation: 6:30–9 p.m.  
Walb Student Union Ballroom

March 23  
Northeast Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fair
7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Athletic Center

March 25 & 27  
9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
April 1  
Noon–3 p.m.  
Electromagnetic Applications Workshop II  
ET 331

April 24  
New Tech Student Showcase
9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
International Ballroom

May 15  
Commencement  
4 p.m.  
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

More information: College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science  
260-481-6839  
etcs.ipfw.edu
on Forefront of Growth, Change

Center of Excellence in Systems Engineering—Enterprise Leadership through System Design

The Center of Excellence in Systems Engineering (CESE) offers students and graduates opportunities to lead enterprise change by delivering superior products and services. The center provides our Indiana business partners the leadership, learning laboratory, and research facilities to sustain and grow their businesses by design.

Momentum and innovation are an integral part of IPFW’s culture and help set the stage for CESE’s success. Center Director and Associate Professor David Cochran, Ph.D., is very enthusiastic about the cross-functional opportunities, “Combining with the Center for Leadership Development and other campus and community partners will allow us to expand our mission. We are emphasizing an enterprise design approach to foster engineering innovation for the entire value stream. Students will help manufacturing, defense, healthcare, and government sectors reap the benefits that stem from quickly, efficiently, and inexpensively identifying and resolving problems by participating in the Center’s Enterprise Design, Leadership and Innovation Program.”

There are currently three programs supported by CESE, including:

The Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) Degree with Systems Engineering Specialization—to meet the needs of motivated engineers who wish to advance their careers in systems engineering in defense and related industries.

Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering—offered for completing the core MSE Degree program material with a systems engineering specialization.

Enterprise Design and Leadership Innovation Engineering Program—structured to initiate innovation and positive enterprise change, with a focus on the design and leadership necessary to sustain any enterprise system.

In addition, there is a growing list of systems engineering short courses that can be offered as on-site seminars or off-site workshops.

There are also two laboratories that can also help CESE succeed—the Systems Research Laboratory, which supports industrial research and application of system design based on functional requirements, and the Industrial Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Systems Laboratory, which is an experiential-based design and learning environment for advanced manufacturing system implementation (including supply chain design and enterprise resource planning).

Along with Associate Director Jason Barnes, Cochran has been working diligently to get this leading edge center up and running. If you would like to find out more about enterprise leadership through design and what that means to your organization, stop by or contact us at 260-481-6381.

Connectivity Goes Digital
If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter by email, please send your email address to bakej@ipfw.edu
Computer Science Programming Team Wins Award at International Contest

IPFW’s competitive computer programming team recently participated in the International Collegiate Programming Contest of the Association for Computing Machinery. The contest was held Nov. 3, 2012 at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. IPFW’s team consisted of Andrew Habegger, Alex Morton, and Tara Joyce. Professor Britton Wolfe led and prepared the team for the competition. The team did very well, beating 109 out of 130 other teams in our highly competitive region! In addition, they earned the “Solid Programmers” award for the entire region, which is given to the team that solved the highest number of problems with minimal penalties for incorrect programs. Join us in congratulating Professor Wolfe and our talented students!