

NEWS RELEASE

East Carolina University News Services

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ECU Department of Engineering awarded \$600,000 NSF grant to strengthen STEM initiatives

GREENVILLE (3/14/2011) – East Carolina University’s Department of Engineering has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant which will provide ECU students with opportunities to receive scholarships, develop and conduct research and collaborate with scholars throughout the country.

The NSF grant, in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), is in the amount of \$599,894 and was awarded based on the project titled “Expanding Engineering in Eastern North Carolina (E3NC).” The grant will run from May 2011 through April 2016.

The NSF STEM project makes grants to institutions of higher education to support scholarships for academically talented, financially needy students, enabling them to enter the workforce following completion of an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate-level degree in science and engineering disciplines.

In addition to tuition funding support, ECU will provide opportunities for the engineering student recipients of the scholarships to work closely with the Noyce Scholars, a group of ECU graduate students who will become K-12 mathematics and science teachers.

“This large grant to the seven-year old engineering program at ECU represents a significant milestone in the life of this engineering program,” said Dr. Hayden Griffin, ECU department chair for engineering. “It is also an amazing opportunity for talented North Carolina students who lack financial means to attend ECU and earn an engineering degree that will prepare them well for a successful career.”

Research conducted during the program will be aimed at obtaining better understanding of how students learn engineering and the factors that help them succeed. Students selected to participate in E3NC will be in-state residents, already accepted by the ECU engineering department and possess an excellent record of scholarship and accomplishment during high school. There are other financial and academic requirements that must be met to be eligible for the scholarships.

“The ECU Department of Engineering has built an amazing foundation for student success and this is a credit to our faculty, staff and administrators and their commitment to grow,” said Dr. David White, dean of the ECU College of Technology and Computer Science. “This NSF grant allows us to take some very important steps forward to continue our growth in engineering in North Carolina.”

The project will be assisted by an advisory board comprised of faculty from East Carolina University, Michigan Tech, Purdue, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Tech. For more information, please contact Dr. Evelyn Brown, Associated Dean for the College of Technology and Computer Science at (252) 328-9600.

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