

College of Technology and Computer Science

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU's College of Technology and Computer Science Awarded Catalyst Initiative Innovation Grant from Hewlett-Packard to Foster Global Collaboration Among Educational Institutions

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Oct. 4, 2010)- The College of Technology and Computer Science, Technology Systems department at East Carolina University announced today a grant received for their participation in the Hewlett-Packard (HP) Catalyst Initiative, a global social innovation program designed to develop more effective approaches to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education worldwide. HP awarded Dr. Peng Li, assistant professor, in the Department of Technology Systems, the grant in a formal announcement on September 16.

Li was awarded the grant, valued at more than \$150,000, for his proposal entitled "Hands-on information technology virtual laboratory powered by cloud computing for global collaboration." Headed by Li, the team members included, Mr. Lee Toderick, Dr. ChengCheng Li, Dr. Philip Lunsford, Dr. Tijjani Mohammed, and Mr. Joel Sweatte; all collaborated on this project to put them in contention for the grant.

"With this project we are going to explore how to leverage virtualization and cloud computing technologies to bridge the digital divide between schools and between countries, and make hands-on learning experiences available to more students through collaboration," Li said.

"The HP Catalyst Initiative underscores our vision of a world where innovation and collaboration are enabled by investments in technology and education," says Gabi Zedlmayer, vice president of Global Social Innovation for HP. "The program is designed to help foster potential solutions to society's most critical challenges by educating and nurturing leaders that will be critical in ensuring we develop new communities and find new ways of doing things."

HP awarded \$6 million to 35 educational institutions, including ECU, across five consortia that will use the award to explore innovations in STEM+ learning and teaching. This builds on the Obama Administration's "Educate to Innovate" coalition designed to

improve national outcomes in STEM subject matters.

HP is building a global network of consortia that is attempting to develop more effective approaches to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. The goal is to create international collaborative "sandboxes" of innovation that will explore what the future of STEM education can look like—a future where students use their technical and creative ingenuity to address urgent social challenges in their communities and around the world.

"The College of Technology and Computer Science is on the cutting edge on STEM research," says

David White, dean of the college. "I want to congratulate our team on such a strong effort working with Hewlett

Packard and advancing the vision of STEM programs."

This is not the first time the College of Technology and Computer Science has received a research grant from a national recognized organization. In the past, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Defense (DoD), and the National Security Agency (NSA) all awarded grants for various research and projects within the college.

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