



## College of Technology and Computer Science

### Office of the Dean

East Carolina University

Science and Technology Bldg. Suite 100 • Greenville, NC 27858-4353

252-328-9600 office • 252-328-9635 dean • 252-328-4250 fax • [www.tecs.ecu.edu](http://www.tecs.ecu.edu)

For Release  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2009

### **ECU software engineering students gain global experience through partnership with India**

GREENVILLE (7/10/09) – East Carolina University students in an undergraduate software engineering class are preparing for a global work environment without having to leave campus.

For the fourth year, ECU professors and students will partner with MS University of Baroda in Vadodra, India to produce software for Unisys Global Services.

The project simulates a real-world software engineering experience. ECU students will be required to create complex software using state-of-the-art software engineering processes, practices and tools. They will learn about the use of professional processes and tools, self-learning, teamwork, document and file sharing, and oral and written reporting.

But what is done on the Greenville campus is only half of the project. ECU students must collaborate with students in India to produce the final software product that will be evaluated by Unisys.

The goal of the program is simple, said Dr. N.M.H. Tabrizi, ECU's software engineering program director. "We aim to broaden our students' global and cultural horizons, enhance professional networking skills and, of course, teach them how to effectively produce complex software while achieving an overall team goal," he said.

The students from ECU and MS University of Baroda participate in weekly formal meetings with faculty and Unisys officials. They also use free online chats, instant messaging and cell phones to communicate around the world.

"Graduates in software engineering are more and more likely to communicate with team members and managers solely via electronic means such as teleconference, videoconference, e-mail or e-file sharing," Tabrizi said. "We are teaching them the most effective ways to achieve this success, especially when dealing with companies, clients and team members all over the globe."

Since 2007, more than 20 ECU students have benefited from the partnership. One of those students, Tatiana Cook, who will graduate in December 2009, found the experience to be challenging, exciting and very rewarding.

"I have a new understanding for collaboration and teamwork," Cook said. "I learned how to work with my ECU teammates as well as those thousands of miles away. We also learned how to successfully troubleshoot problems like time zones, communication breakdowns and conflict. It was a tremendous experience."

Tabrizi said the ECU Department of Computer Science has plans to expand this type of global education and industry partnership in the near future. For information or to speak with Dr. Tabrizi about this project, please contact Chris Stansbury, communications coordinator for the ECU College of Technology and Computer Science at (252) 328-9611.