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ENGINEERS, EDUCATORS PARTNER TO EXPAND YOUNG MINDS

PORTLAND, Ore. (April 9, 2007) —The Business Education Compact (BEC) has announced that it will partner with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the largest group of practicing electrical engineers worldwide, in programs to inspire Oregon students in science and engineering.

The teaming of these two organizations is the first of its kind in Oregon and will pair volunteer engineers from among IEEE's local 3,800 members with students to offer career guidance, mentoring through internships and classroom presentations to K-12 students.

"Our goal is to better prepare and motivate our students to go into professions that will generate high job satisfaction and at the same time meet the needs of society," said BEC Deputy Director Mary Beth Horton.

Technical professions are too often stigmatized as being just for introverts, difficult to master and accessible only by the extremely gifted. By offering students exposure to highly inspired, practicing engineers via classroom visits and to technology-intensive workplaces via internships for older students, the BEC will improve student motivation and direction and show that a technical profession is both desirable and achievable.

Dr. Chris Jacobs, public relations director for IEEE, affirms BEC's mission, "I believe in the goals of the project, especially BEC's emphasis on scientific and technical knowledge as the cornerstone of future professions. To stay competitive in the future world market, the U.S. is going to need all the technically competent employees we can get."

BEC encourages participants from the business community to help shape the students of today into the future competitive workforce of tomorrow. Businesses can help by simply sending a volunteer engineer into the classroom or even by opening their doors to a student intern. In doing so, the business community can invest in the future by helping to make engineering desirable and attainable to young minds.

(more)

To participate in this valuable program of connecting the classroom to the workplace, please call Greg Kulander at 503.646.0242 x23 or email gkulander@becpdx.org.

About IEEE

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) with over 380,000 members worldwide and over 3,700 in Oregon, is the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology. IEEE members make important contributions to disciplines, from computers to micro-electronics to power grids. Members come together to expand knowledge, help set standards in their respective fields, and be a valuable source of knowledge for those writing legislation and the general public. The organization works for the public good by supporting worthwhile technical projects and education.

About the Business Education Compact

For 23 years, this local nonprofit organization, has committed itself to “make learning real” by connecting the classroom and workplace with hands-on, innovative learning experiences for students and teachers, by creating and leading working partnerships with business and education and advocating for quality education in Oregon. Learn more about the BEC at www.becpdx.org or call Deputy Director Mary Beth Horton at 503.646.0242 x33, or email mbhorton@becpdx.org.

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