Foundation Grant Work Nears Completion

This edition of our newsletter highlights activities since late January.

Toyota USA Foundation Grant
We are in the final stretch of finishing development work on the Relevant Education in Math and Science (REMS) grant. We have completed the design and testing of 27 in-lab activities — 3 for each of Advanced Manufacturing, Distribution, and Health Care, and each of those at 3 grade levels (5-6, 7-9, and 10-12). We are also nearly finished with the development and testing of 27 online activities that closely resemble the in-lab activities. Our web site is operational — visit www.rit.edu/kgcoe/rem/. Tina Bonfiglio, our REMS Coordinator, has done a great job attracting groups to the lab, which in combination with our usual summer camps for girls and young women enabled us to have 41 instances of testing the design of our activities (503 students total). This number is much larger than any previous 6 month period, and reflects the culmination of the work of the entire REMS team.

National Science Foundation Grant
Twenty-four students from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) participated in the Transforming Undergraduate Education in STEM project. The TPS Lab provides the platform for the hands-on activities created to improve problem-solving skills in Deaf students. An application was developed that provides students with captioned and signed videos to support their progression through the A3 problem-solving sequence. Preliminary results indicate that students experience significant improvement in problem-solving skills as a result of participating in the lab activities.

Record Number of Visitors in the TPS Lab

RIT held its 7th annual “Imagine RIT” festival on May 4. More than 30,000 people visited the RIT campus, and of that large group, 1,939 visited the TPS Lab, which smashed last year’s record! This is a take (arrival rate) of 13 seconds for 7 hours. The lego car assembly game was a favorite again this year — 341 people built cars on 3 assembly lines, 34 volunteers from our faculty and students helped to serve this huge group of visitors.

Staffing and Development Work
Sean Murnan started a full time job and became a lab alum. This spring and summer our graduate student staff has been Atul Ghadge, Ajith Sharma, Kshitij Luthria, Anubhav Mukherjee, and Bhanu Krishna Potluri. We are developing some new lab activities — one using our new ondon system, and another that involves designing and running a mixed model line.

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