

Kansas State University's ELITE Scholarship Program:
Enhancing Lives through Technology and Engineering

Dr. Raju Dandu, Associate Professor
Dr. John E. De Leon, Professor and Head
Department of Engineering Technology
Kansas State University at Salina
785-826-2677
rdandu@ksu.edu
jd17@sal.ksu.edu

2007 ASEE Midwest Conference

Abstract

Kansas State University's Engineering Technology programs are receiving far more employer requests for graduating students than students available to fill the need. This is not merely a local trend. The National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council confirms that domestic supply of qualified workers is not keeping up with the skill demands in fields that require strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Made possible by funding from the National Science Foundation, Scholarship-Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics grant, Kansas State's Enhancing Lives through Technology and Engineering (ELITE) scholarship program will help ensure the increase of associate and baccalaureate degrees among the academically talented but financially needy students of Kansas. Our proposal fosters a mechanism that will enable qualifying students to secure an Engineering Technology degree from K-State at Salina. By building on current partnerships with high schools and enhancing those with community colleges, the ELITE program will provide a bridge inviting interested students from around the state to submit their applications to become an ELITE scholar. Thus, ELITE scholars will comprise freshmen, transfer or current K-State students. This presentation will provide insight into the structure of the award winning proposal. Furthermore, information related to application demographics and the selection process will be disseminated.