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## **Engineering division joins University of Toledo's main campus Technology department leaves Scott Park site**

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The University of Toledo's college of engineering yesterday celebrated the move of its largest department to main campus for the first time.

The engineering technology department, which always had been on UT's Scott Park campus, has a new home with the rest of the college after a nearly \$5 million renovation of the North Engineering Building.

"For the first time, we're able to have the whole college physically together," Dan Solarek, chairman of the engineering technology department, said. "That facilitates a lot of interactions, both formal and informal, between faculty and staff and students."

More than 100 people attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday to celebrate the renovation.

The engineering technology program has been at UT since the 1960s. Because it began as an associate degree program, it was situated on the Scott Park campus, which was UT's community and technical college, Mr. Solarek said.

Although the university began offering bachelor's degrees instead of associate degrees in that area, the engineering technology department stayed at Scott Park.

"One of the biggest things, I think, is our students used to feel a bit isolated on the Scott Park campus," Mr. Solarek said.

"Now they're all together so they feel some sense of equity. Our students don't feel like second-class citizens."

Engineering college Dean Nagi Naganathan said it's important to have all departments of the college under one roof to allow for interaction and collaboration on many levels.

"With all this evolution we thought it was important we collocate all of the departments. This provides a natural scenario for interaction," he said.

"Students now will see the full gamut of activities - they will see instruction, they will see research, and also commercialization more and more."

With 1,000 students, UT's engineering technology department is one of the largest in the nation, Mr. Naganathan said.

He described engineering technology studies as having a larger focus on application, whereas other engineering studies are largely focused on design and preparation.

Renovations to the North Engineering Building, which had been an Owens-Illinois plant facility, were paid for with state capital dollars and not student tuition, university officials noted.

The building was mostly vacant for some time.

The renovation of more than 35,000-square-feet in the northeast wing of the building made room for high-tech laboratories, offices, and student gathering spaces.

The engineering technology students will share classroom space with other engineering students.

UT's Scott Park campus has long been used as an overflow campus and is undergoing a transition into a "Campus of Energy and Innovation" with energy-focused lab and classroom spaces.

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