

Engineering Technology Department to celebrate new space Dec. 7

By Jon Strunk: December 4th, 2009 UT News

The University of Toledo College of Engineering will celebrate North Engineering renovations that will enable its Department of Engineering Technology to collocate with the college's five other departments on Main Campus at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house Monday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. in the northeast wing of the North Engineering Building.



Renovations to the North Engineering Building will allow the Engineering Technology Department to move from Scott Park Campus to Main Campus.

"I think one of the greatest benefits of the move is the ability for Engineering Technology faculty and students to have those unplanned interactions with peers

and colleagues that can lead to more formal experimentation, learning and research," said Dan Solarek, professor and chair of engineering technology.

Renovations totaled nearly \$5 million for new laboratories, office space, computer labs and student gathering spaces.

"At Scott Park, I think some of our students felt a little isolated," Solarek said. "Now we have places for them to gather, study and interact with each other."

The department had been housed on the Scott Park Campus, where two-year engineering technology degree programs existed for several decades when that campus was a central location for associate degree programs. In 1997, the college's baccalaureate technology programs merged with the two-year programs and moved to Scott Park.

College of Engineering Dean Dr. Nagi Naganathan echoed Solarek, saying it was important to get all departments under one roof. He also highlighted the department's growth.

"With nearly 1,000 students enrolled today, the department is one of the largest engineering technology programs in the United States," Naganathan said. "It's essential that such an important constituency is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to ensure the students we graduate are familiar with the newest technology and techniques as they begin their careers."

Dr. Brian Randolph, associate dean for undergraduate studies in the College of Engineering, said the renovations have already had a dramatic impact on high school students and their families as they tour the engineering complex.

"In the past, having two locations was a bit of a struggle when it came to highlighting our facilities," Randolph said. "But today we've changed the tour route and are easily able to show potential engineering technology students where they will learn, rather than explaining facilities at Scott Park to a student who might not have had time to also visit there. The response has been overwhelmingly positive."

"Several years ago, we discontinued the two-year degree programs and decided to focus on baccalaureate degree programs," Naganathan said. "The new facilities will help to showcase our outstanding and distinctive engineering technology educational offerings."