

# National Coalition for Recruiting Electrical and Computer Engineering Students

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September 10, 2002

Dear current and prospective members of NCRECES:

This is my first correspondence with you to discuss the goals of our new organization since its introduction by Yih-Fang Huang (Chair of the EE Dept. at Notre Dame) at the ECEDHA meeting in March. The goal of NCRECES is to facilitate graduate student recruiting from U.S. schools in EE and CSE. Member institutions will provide contacts and resources to allow better access to their undergraduate students. So far, 24 universities have signed on as members. This will better enable faculty to incorporate recruiting activities while visiting other departments. Because recruitment is not an established part of the academic engineering culture and calendar, ad hoc efforts force each recruiter to reinvent the process. This organization aims to change the culture, establishing recruitment as a regular activity, and making it easier to perform recruiting activities.

It is important to elucidate what, if any, problems exist in the current situation of graduate student recruiting and enrollment. According to NSF, only about half of all graduate students in EE and CSE at U.S. universities are from the U.S. The numbers are obviously much smaller at many institutions. Recruiting from domestic programs is not a zero sum game – everyone wins by finding the best students to go on to graduate school, thus increasing the pool of highly-educated engineers so needed by industry. In addition, recruiting at domestic institutions increases our chances of attracting under-represented students. Schools at every tier have undergraduates that would make excellent graduate students, if only they were informed of opportunities. That is the goal of NCRECES – to bring the word to a larger body of undergraduates and seek out the gems amongst them.

It is incumbent upon us to apprise our undergraduates of the benefits of graduate education. Clearly, the message is not getting out – what it means to go to graduate school, what career opportunities it affords, what it takes to get into graduate school, where students should look for programs that match their interests, etc. We must go out of our way to convey the message of what our programs offer. By doing this, we can change our students' perceptions of graduate education and heighten awareness of these opportunities.

I would encourage departments to do a few things. Firstly, create the infrastructure for reaching your own students. Perhaps offer a few well-timed seminars to alert students to graduate school opportunities. For example, most undergraduates do not realize that graduate school in engineering is almost always supported by a stipend, and tuition costs are usually waived. If they decide to apply to graduate school, they need to be realistic about their chances, and to make up their minds asap in September to get ready for the GREs.

Secondly, you might choose to join NCRECES. Someone should be named as the contact who will announce meetings, reserve rooms, and host visitors. When this is done, contact me (bernstein.1@nd.edu) to become a member so that your contact information can be disseminated. (The current list of members is attached below.) In September you will be able to go to [www.nd.edu/~ee](http://www.nd.edu/~ee) to view an updated list of members, as well as other information and a bulletin board.

Finally, you might share what you are doing and your experiences with other departments. Many of us recruit students from fields such as physics, materials science, mathematics, etc. We need students in these departments, as well, to be aware of opportunities.

You may have noticed that the name of the organization changed slightly from the first correspondence. I hope you find it easier to pronounce this way (like "increases"). I look forward to hearing your suggestions, questions, requests for application info, or anything else.

Best Regards,

Gary H. Bernstein  
Director, NCRECES

	University	Program	UG Seniors	Liaison	Liaison Email	Liaison Phone
1	Arizona State University	Ph.D.	276	Joseph Palais	joseph.palais@asu.edu	480-965-3757
2	Arizona, The University of	Ph.D.	190	Tami J. Whelan	whelan@ece.arizona.edu	520-621-6195
3	Denver, University of	Ph.D.	30	Ronald R. DeLyser	rdelyser@du.edu	303-871-2034
4	Houston, University of	Ph.D.	100	Ben H. Jansen	bjansen@uh.edu	713-743-4431
5	Idaho State University	Ph.D.	15	Jody Finnegan	finnjody@isu.edu	208-282-4293
6	Iowa State University	Ph.D.	160	Nancy Knight	nknight@iastate.edu	515-294-3241
7	Michigan, University of	Ph.D.	450	Robin A. Rennie	rennie@eecs.umich.edu	734-764-9544
8	Milwaukee School of Engineering	M.S.	40-50	Owe G. Petersen	petersen@msoe.edu	414-277-7114
9	Minnesota State University, Mankato	M.S.	72	William B. Hudson	william.hudson@mnsu.edu	507-389-5747
10	Minnesota, University of	Ph.D.	250	Bruce F. Wollenberg	wollenbe@ece.umn.edu	612-626-7192
11	New Orleans, University of	Ph.D.	40	Robert Akl	rakl@uno.edu	504-280-5419
12	Northern Arizona University	M.S.	30	Liz Brauer	liz.brauer@nau.edu	928-523-8903
13	Notre Dame, University of	Ph.D.	36	Gary H. Bernstein	gbernste@nd.edu	574-631-6269
14	Old Dominion University	Ph.D.	350	Amin Dharamsi	adharams@odu.edu	757-683-3741
15	Pennsylvania State University at Erie	None	40	Thomas Hemminger	tlh5@psu.edu	814-898-6479
16	Pittsburgh, University of	Ph.D.	100	Tom Cain	cain@ee.pitt.edu	412-624-9664
17	Portland State University	Ph.D.	65	James E. Morris	j.e.morris@ieee.org	503-725-9588
18	Rowan University	M.S.	30	John Schmalzel	schmalzel@rowan.edu	856-256-5330
19	San Francisco State University	M.S.	250	Wenshen Pong	wspong@sfsu.edu	415-338-7738
20	Syracuse University	Ph.D.	96	Carlos Hartmann	hartmann@ecs.syr.edu	315-443-5807
21	Vermont, University of	Ph.D.	21	Walter Varhue	varhue@emba.uvm.edu	802-656-8505
22	Widener University	M.S.	23	Alan G. Peura	alan.g.peura@widener.edu	610-499-1294
23	Wisconsin-Madison, University of	Ph.D.	150	Donna Lewis	lewis@enr.wisc.edu	608-262-3613
24	Virginia, University of	Ph.D.	75	Trudi Doodwon	eegradoffice@virginia.edu	434-924-6077