



## Bridges Among Diverse Engineering Colleges Essay Competition

In his 1998 address to the Annual Meeting of the National Academies, Bill Wulf, president of the National Academy of Engineering, expressed his deeper concerns about engineering manpower like this, “*First, engineering is a very creative profession. That is not the way it is usually described, but down to my toes I believe that engineering is profoundly creative. Second, as in any creative profession, what comes out is a function of the life experiences of the people who do it. Finally, we limit the set of life experiences that are applied, and as a result, we pay an opportunity cost—a cost in products not built, in designs not considered, in constraints not understood, in processes not invented.*”

The future of our nation depends upon having a good supply of engineers and engineering researchers from diverse backgrounds; small towns and big metros, small teaching-intensive universities and large research-intensive universities, and socio-economic differences. Technological innovations generate a vast array of benefits, including improved products and services, a higher standard of living, and economic and military security. Technological creativity allows American companies to compete effectively and efficiently in the global marketplace. But the United States is currently unable to produce the numbers of scientists and engineers that are needed. To fill jobs requiring technical expertise, American companies have had to rely more and more on foreign-born workers. At the same time, U.S. student representation in engineering research is continues to be small.

Write an essay of 1,400 words or less on the following topic:

***How can partnerships among larger and smaller engineering universities help strengthen the overall competitiveness of the United States in today's global economy?***

### Awards

All entries will be eligible for the following awards:

- First Place: \$500
- Second Place: \$250
- Third Place: \$100

The winners will be notified on March 14, 2008

### Submission Deadline

All completed entries (application form & essay) must be sent to:

Shena Crittendon  
Division of Research and Economic Development  
NC A&T State University  
1601 East market Street  
Greensboro, NC 27411

All entries must be **received** by the workshop committee no later than Friday, February 15, 2008.

### Submission Rules

- All entries must include the application form and essay
- All essays must be written in English and must be typed (double-spaced) in either Times New Roman or Arial Font, with 11 or 12 pt. font size.
- Please type your full name on the top of the first page of your essay and in each page's footer.
- All entries become the property of the “Bridges to Engineering Research - 2020 Workshop”, and we reserve the right to publish them in their entirety or in part electronically or through the print medium.
- No faxed entries will be accepted.
- All essays will be judged by a panel of distinguished judges. Their decision will be final and will not be subject to appeal.

### Questions about this Essay?

Please email [ber2020@ncat.edu](mailto:ber2020@ncat.edu)

### Eligibility

- You should be a undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in an institution of higher learning within the United States of America on January 10, 2008
- All entries will be considered without regard to race, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, religious affiliation, or disability

### How can you help?

We request the assistance of educators and advisors by doing the following:

- Reaching out to students at your university and letting them know about this competition.
- Encouraging students to go the workshop website and download the following essay competition application.

<http://www.eng.ncat.edu/event/NSF2008/nsf2008.htm>



**Bridges Among Diverse Engineering Colleges**  
**Essay Competition**

**APPLICATION FORM**

Complete all pages and questions accurately and fully. Please type or legibly print in black ink.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address Valid Until: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this essay competition? (Please be as specific as possible)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION**

What school are you currently attending? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your classification? \_\_\_\_\_

University: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the above provided information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Additionally, I have read the eligibility requirements and condition for the Bridges to Engineering Research Essay Competition, and agree to abide by them. I understand that the decision reached by the panel of judges is final.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, sex, religious affiliation, or disability. Decisions made by the judges are final and not subject to appeal.