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Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to introduce this publication featuring 84 Advanced Technological Education (ATE) projects. The ATE projects and centers supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) are among the most visionary initiatives in education.

ATE Projects Impact highlights the inventive ways educators at two-year colleges are leading efforts to resolve significant technical education issues. As you will see in this publication, some projects focus on ways to recruit students into science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields, whereas others strive to enhance students' engagement in these core subjects. Some ATE projects test ways to give students authentic workplace experiences, and others experiment with virtual technologies to prepare students for the problems they will solve as full-fledged technicians. Some ATE projects bring professional development opportunities to community college campuses, and others facilitate faculty learning off campus with industry partners.

Although it focuses on community colleges—the primary sources for technician education in the United States—every aspect of the ATE program involves educators from multiple sectors and employers of technicians in fields of strategic importance to the nation. It is not surprising, therefore, that nearly every principal investigator lists collaboration as a priority activity in the 2007 annual survey of the ATE program by the Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University. Another Evaluation Center report noted that the typical institution to receive an ATE grant collaborated with five or more other non-ATE-affiliated institutions. “The majority of this country’s community colleges have been impacted in one or more ways by the program,” the researchers reported.

It is my hope that *ATE Projects Impact*, published by the American Association of Community Colleges with support from the National Science Foundation, will be an instrument of new collaborative activities. I encourage readers to look at all the projects highlighted here as potential resources for best practices that can be applied across academic disciplines and settings, as well as in workplaces. I urge readers to follow the Internet links listed with each project profile to obtain more detailed information about projects and to make direct contact with the principal investigators listed on projects' Web sites. ATE principal investigators willingly share the lessons they have learned. ATE materials and curricula developed with NSF support are disseminated free of charge.

I hope *ATE Projects Impact* impresses you and spurs your creative thinking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George R. Boggs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George R. Boggs
President and Chief Executive Officer