

HP- Oregon Tech Partnership in Computer Printer Testing Lab

Assistant Professor Eric Egalite who teaches embedded systems in the Computer Systems Engineering Technology program has partnered with Hewlett Packard to provide a unique applied experience for students in his classroom. Working with students from multiple majors, **Software, Embedded Systems, Hardware, and Operations Management, Egalite is collaborating** with HP's Laser Jet R&D Lab in Boise, Idaho to enable students to build automated testing software for HP's laser jet printers. The student work will be incorporated into HP's development processes to improve the quality of their products.

During winter term 2011, students applied their classroom knowledge to this hands-on, real world project. Working on an iterative process with their HP engineering contact, Andrew Zahnow, students worked as a team to develop, test, and improve the printers. Zahnow, an Oregon Tech graduate, was actually a student who was involved in a similar experiential project the previous year. Likewise, Egalite is an Oregon Tech alumnus, and former HP employee.

Through his work experience at HP, Egalite understands their needs, resource limitations, and the opportunities for student learning. He is bringing project-based learning experiences into the OIT curriculum, and positioning students to act as an extension of a corporate team at HP. This experience simulates a real engineering project team and will enhance student resumes and employment opportunities.

For industry partner, HP, their team gains the expertise of the students on a project that they would not have the resources to complete otherwise, with the added advantage of preparing students who may eventually become HP employees.

For Oregon Tech, the project results in enhanced relevance in the curriculum, professional development for both faculty and students, and a loan of four color printers to use in a testing lab environment.

For more information, contact Lita Colligan, Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, 503-821-1247 or lita.colligan@oit.edu.