January 26, 2006

Dear Educator:

More and more we hear news accounts of the technical “brain drain” from the USA. The fact is our country is facing a shortage of students studying engineering, science, computer science, and mathematics.

The National Science Board, an independent body that advises Congress and oversees the National Science Foundation, recently warned of a “troubling decline” in the number of U.S. citizens studying to become scientists and engineers, even as the number of jobs requiring science and engineering training grows. “These trends threaten the economic welfare and security of our country,” the board concluded.

In 2001 China graduated 220,000 engineers, against about 60,000 for the United States, the National Science Foundation reports.

Our Governor, elected legislators, appointed state officials, and educational leaders have all made it their objective to work to get more students into engineering and science careers.

The final report of the “Lt. Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth,” published in December 2004, strongly recommended that our educators and parents encourage more students to go into engineering and science.

The College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, along with its alumni affiliate, faculty, and staff, is offering you, as an educator, the opportunity to do something about this. On March 18, we are holding an “Engineering and Computer Science Experience” day on the campus of the university. This day is designed to enlighten high school juniors of the opportunities in the engineering and computer science fields. The highlight of the day is an opportunity to compete for scholarships and cash prizes in either an engineering or a computer programming competition.

As a further incentive, the College of Engineering and Computer Science is offering a $250 bonus to the high school teacher/counselor mentor who enrolls the winners in each competition.

Please take the time to read and display the enclosed poster in a prominent place where all juniors and seniors in your high school can see it.

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to help us rekindle the technical interests of our young men and women.

Sincerely,

John M. Cole, P.E.
President, Cole Engineering LLC
Chair, CECS Alumni Affiliate