



<http://www.foundationcoalition.org>

From Jeff Froyd, Project Director The Foundation Coalition (FC) was funded by the National Science Foundation as an agent of systemic renewal for the engineering educational community. Initially, all of the coalition partner institutions substantially restructured their engineering curricula, particularly the first two years. Now, one of our major challenges is finding ways to work with schools outside the Coalition so that as they improve educational experiences for their students they can use what we have learned. In one FC initiative, two schools, University of Wisconsin Madison (UW) and University of Alabama (UA), are working with institutions in their conferences to focus on important issues for their engineering curricula. On 21 February 2002, UA will host a planning meeting of schools in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) to prepare for a larger meeting later in the year. UW is working with the University of Michigan, Purdue University, and Smith College. These four schools will meet on 9–10 May 2002 on the campus of the University of Michigan to continue conversations about first-year engineering curricula that were started last year on the Madison campus. It is our hope that these and other meetings will catalyze all of the schools involved to create more exciting improvements in their engineering curricula.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 4–Mar 8 Online Workshop: Designing a Successful Online Course**
Susan Haag and Leah Sutton (Arizona State U.) will facilitate this online course:
<http://www.eas.asu.edu/elearn/events/dsoc/index.html>.
- Feb 21 Southeastern Conference Engineering Schools Meeting in Atlanta GA**
This meeting at the Hilton Atlanta Airport will consider educational issues affecting SEC engineering schools and will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Contacts: Russ Pimmel (rpimmel@coe.eng.ua.edu; 703/292-4642),
David Cordes (cordes@cs.ua.edu; 205/292-1671), or
Chuck Karr (ckarr@coe.eng.ua.edu; 205/292-0066).
- Mar 3–5 Cross-coalition Conference in Gainesville FL**
Share the Future III, University of Florida. The four coalitions (SUCCEED, Gateway, Greenfield, and Foundation) are jointly sponsoring a conference that will feature ~25 interactive two-hour workshops designed to share experience and knowledge gained by the coalitions during the past decade. The conference is open to anyone. See the December FC Newsletter for the workshops schedule and <http://www.foundationcoalition.org/future.htm> for other information.
- Mar 11 Workshops at the University of Maine**
Active/Cooperative Learning in Capstone Design (Russ Pimmel) and First-year Curricula and Programs Across the Foundation Coalition (Jim Morgan; e-mail: jim-morgan@tamu.edu).
- Mar 15–16 Assessment and Evaluation Workshop at Louisiana Tech**
Presenters will be Susan Haag (ASU), Rita Caso-Esposito (TAMU), and Ann Kenimer (e-mail: a-kenimer@tamu.edu).
- May 9–10 Freshman Innovations Miniconference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor**
This FC-funded miniconference is by invitation. The contact person is John Mitchell (e-mail: mitchell@engr.wisc.edu).
- Jun 16–19 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition in Montreal, Quebec, Canada**

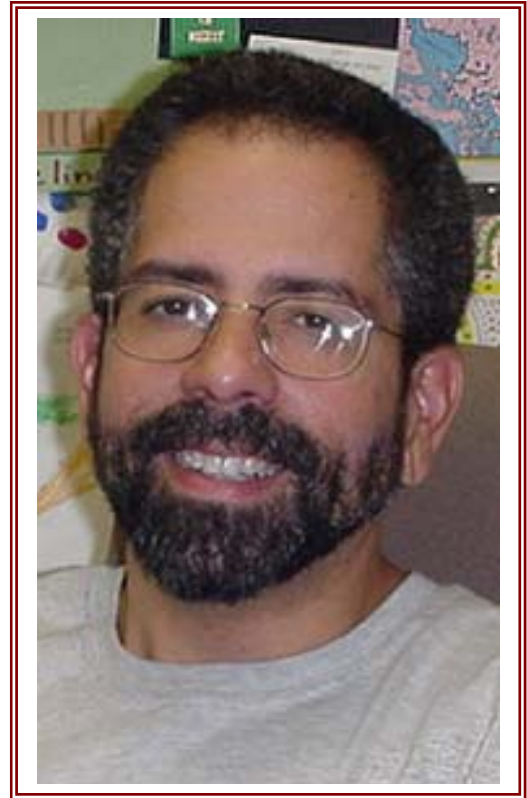
Faculty Feature: César Malavé

In the beginning . . .

My involvement in the Foundation Coalition began as the FC was being formed, during the summer of '92. Lynn Bellamy, who promoted active learning and teaming, visited us in December 1992 and then presented a seminar here. In January 1993 I began using these concepts in my classes. The teaming and active learning worked well—the students were more active and livelier.

Initially, most of my work was training, and the management part was demanding the first several years, during which I averaged two to four trips a month. The planning, assessment, and evaluation of the processes that we were putting in place were very time consuming activities for all of us on the management team. Nevertheless, this was professionally rewarding, as I was able to interact and impact national and international leaders in the field of engineering education.

In 1994 I presented a workshop at the University of Texas at El Paso, the first of many. The El Paso Alliance for Minority Participation program had invited me to give a workshop to the University's physics professors on teaming and active learning. In 1995 I did my first international workshop, at the New University of Lisbon in Portugal. Since then, I have done workshops in Brazil, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, and Mexico, in each country's native language.



Industrial Engineering
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Success!

Even though the FC has been extremely successful in improving the learning environment of our students, in my opinion, the biggest success has been the change in faculty attitudes toward implementing proven, more effective approaches to teaching. Faculty members are more active in implementing the innovative engineering education ideas that FC promotes. More faculty members write proposals to the education section of NSF. Assessment and evaluation of education projects has been formalized and included in all proposals, thanks to the influence of the FC, one of the legacies of the FC program. And then ABET 2000 came along, which helped us, too.

Future opportunities and recognition

University faculty will pay attention if FC-funded projects are related to their particular fields and if these are attached to faculty recognition and reward. To get passion out of the faculty, we must make the projects more discipline specific. We need to propose projects related to specific departments that will bring acknowledgment to participating faculty. Also, the person responsible for each project needs to be clearly defined, so he or she can be credited by his or her department during annual evaluation.