

## UB offers \$2.4 million in scholarships to CPEP students

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The University of Bridgeport is committed to offer 50 scholarships at \$12,000 per year per student to qualified Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program students.

The offer was unveiled in November by UB President Neil Albert Salonen and School of Engineering Dean and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research Tarek Sobh, together with Bruce Dixon, chief executive officer of CPEP, a non-profit organization that helps minority middle and high school students pursue careers in the science, technology, engineering and math fields.



Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program students proudly display a check representing \$2.4 million in scholarships available at the University of Bridgeport to graduates of the program. CPEP educational programs help minority middle and high school students pursue careers in science, engineering, technology and math. At the ceremony, from left, were Tarek Sobh, dean of the UB School of Engineering and vice provost for Graduate Studies and Research, CPEP student Marie Belle, a Bassick High School, Bridgeport, Conn., junior, CPEP CEO Bruce Dixon, a CPEP regional director, CPEP student Irene Bandourova, a Bassick High junior, and CPEP teacher Ignatius Bertone of the Bassick faculty.

Students from throughout the state in the 11 school districts and 35 schools that run CPEP programs will be eligible for the scholarships. There are more than 800 students in Connecticut's CPEP classes.

Salonen said the university was offering the scholarships to help these students fulfill their goals, and to fill a critical need in the United States for engineers and scientists. "As the global economy grows, our country needs to assert its leadership in science and engineering," Salonen said. "That's essential to a strong and vibrant nation, and economy."

Dean Sobh said the scholarships "will help exceptionally gifted high school seniors in CPEP programs achieve their goals by pursuing world-class higher education opportunities at UB."

"CPEP is one Connecticut's largest and oldest engineering preparation programs helping underserved students," Sobh said. "Many of the recipients will be first generation college students; the impact will be tremendous."

"Partnering with non-profit organizations such as CPEP to attract, inspire and prepare students for future careers in science, technology, engineering and math is a top priority for the University of Bridgeport. We look forward to continuing a joint collaboration," Sobh said.

CPEP personnel and UB admissions staff plan on creating a joint committee to initiate the application and evaluation process. The University plans on offering the 50 scholarships to the Fall 2008 incoming CPEP students.