

ACTCHS's Partnership with UTSA's ITECH Department



Our partnership with the Interactive Technology Experience Center (iTEC) will advance to another level beginning November 14. Our superintendent and school board have both endorsed this exclusive partnership with University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) iTEC department. This program will strengthen our existing in-class Basic Engineering Concepts and Principles, Physics, and Language Arts. The goal is to encourage more students to consider engineering as a possible future career, by increasing their motivation through



hands-on learning experiences building and programming the Lego NXT Mindstorm robot platform. Technology has become a vehicle for reaching not only the top students but also students that might not otherwise be interested in math and science unless they can see an exciting, real-life application for the acquired knowledge. The classes will be structured so that students may enter the course with no prior robotic experience, and leave the course fully armed in the understanding of robotics applications. Our students will be introduced to the ideas of control to begin with. They will later

transition into Lab View. Lab View promises to open the doors for students to pursue a variety of control techniques that extend past simple robotics. This phase of the course work will end May 25, 2012. During this period, ACT staff and UTSA's iTEC instructors will teach our students dually. Phase II will involve a special six-week summer program. The goal of the summer program is designed to stimulate thought and "out of the box thinking." It will entice the students to create new approaches to solve the challenges while increasing their knowledge base of the environmental sciences, and forensics sciences. Again, this is another example of ATCHS becoming the premiere training hub for technology-based education.