

On behalf of the ITEEA Board of Directors and staff and the Minneapolis conference planning team, it is my pleasure to invite you and your guests to ITEEA's 73rd Annual Conference: ***Preparing the STEM Workforce: The Next Generation.***

This theme is both important and timely as the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields are crucial to the economic competitiveness and growth of America. All constituents must develop strategies to bolster the standard of living that promotes opportunity and innovation as well as adequately prepares qualified workers for employment in STEM fields.

Two of this conference's highlights will be the presentations by Dr. Rich Feller and Dr. Joseph "Jay" Zwischenberger. Dr Feller's extensive work in career development has resulted in over 70 publications, seats on various Boards of Directors and editorial boards, hundreds of professional presentations and workshops, and countless committees and other services activities. At the ITEEA Program Excellence General Session, he will address the 21st Century Workforce and how technology and engineering teachers can play a major role in shaping the workforce of the future, new basics for the next generation, and the sustainable workforce and environment.

Teacher Excellence General Session speaker, Dr. Joseph "Jay" Zwischenberger, leads a department of more than 120 surgeons, scientists, and residents and is supported by nearly 160 staff members. He is also the director of the University of Kentucky's Transplant Center and has been an important advocate of technology during the development of the artificial lung and played an important role in the patent process in relation to its development. He is renowned for speaking on the topic of the advances in medicine made possible by the use of technology.

Another important aspect of attending the ITEEA Conference is the opportunity to recognize and honor the accomplishments of our colleagues and best-practice programs. Additionally, this conference will also provide professional development opportunities, networking opportunities, an opportunity to renew old friendships, and opportunities to create new friendships.

We listened to feedback from teachers and have structured the conference schedule to permit participants adequate time to explore the most recent textbook, software, equipment, and instructional exhibits at the trade show. The vendors that attend the annual ITEEA Conference are a critical resource for you to improve the materials and equipment in your classroom. They have a vested interest in providing you and your students the best they have to offer.

The ITEEA Board of Directors and staff and the local planning team look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!

Gary Wynn, DTE
ITEEA President
2010-2011