New England Institute of Technology Partners with The College Crusade of RI
To Teach Middle School Girls About Powered Flight

East Greenwich, RI – New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) was awarded one of six $1000 mini-grants from the Southern New England Girls Collaborative Project (SNEGCP), a newly established affiliate of the National Girls Collaborative Project serving Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The purpose of the grant is to engage middle school and high school girls in the fields of Science, Technology, Education, and Mathematics (STEM). The SNEGCP is based upon a model developed by its EdLab Group organization and is designed to bring organizations together to compare needs and resources, share information, and to strategically plan to expand science and math related opportunities for girls.

John Burger, Professor and Chair of Mathematics and Sciences at New England Tech, secured the grant. Award recipients were selected based on their original idea, level of collaboration with other girl-serving organizations, and their alignment with the SNEGCP’s mission. In total, the six awarded projects are estimated to reach a total of 250-300 middle school and high school girls in 2012.

New England Tech, in collaboration with The College Crusade of Rhode Island, will offer its program, “Taking Flight with Science and Math” to approximately 25 underserved Rhode Island middle school girls from schools such as, Nathan Bishop Middle School, Governor Christopher DelSesto Middle School, Nathanael Green Middle School, Roger Williams Middle School, and Times2 Academy. The mission of The College Crusade is to increase educational and career success for youth in Rhode Island’s low-income communities from grades 6-12. These 25 girls will participate in a powered flight project scheduled for three consecutive Saturdays on October 22, October 29 and November 5 at New England Tech’s East Greenwich Campus.

On October 22, the students will visit Horizon Aviation at T.F. Green Airport, a partner in NEIT’s Associate in Science degree program in Aviation Science. Then on October 29, each student will receive a super capacitor powered plane kit to learn the concepts of design and flight by building their own plane. By the third class on November 5, the girls will have a completed plane. Once the planes are tested for flight worthiness, the students will have the opportunity to fly their model.

Todd D. Flaherty President & CEO of The College Crusade of Rhode Island stated, “We are excited to partner with New England Tech on this workshop for middle school girls. Aviation
science is a fascinating subject of study that opens many career pathways. The Crusaders who are participating in this workshop will benefit greatly from its interactive, hands-on approach to teaching the STEM disciplines and will help them progress confidently to more challenging topics in the future.”

The girls will not only leave New England Tech with their custom-designed plane but also with the confidence to challenge themselves in future math and science opportunities. According to Professor Burger, “The main goal of this collaboration between NEIT and The College Crusade of Rhode Island is to give these girls a positive science and math related experience in a college environment. Ideally by interacting with college faculty, students and professionals, these girls will envision themselves as being able to succeed in higher education and be more interested in taking science and math courses in general.”

Under the leadership of President Richard I. Gouse, New England Institute of Technology is a private, non-profit, technical college with an enrollment of more than 3,000 students in over 30 Associate, Bachelor and Master’s degree programs and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. Visit www.neit.edu or follow news of the college on Facebook, Twitter and You Tube.

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