

Integrated Engineering program receives accreditation

The Integrated Engineering program in the College of Computing, Integrated Engineering and Technology has received accreditation from the highest accrediting agency in the industry. SUU's program is the only one of its kind in the state higher education system, and one of only a few in the entire country. It is also the only ABET-accredited program of its kind.

ABET, Inc., established in 1932, is the recognized U.S. accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. Accreditation is a process in academia that ensures the quality of postsecondary education students receive.

The ABET team is made up of professionals and scholars of the industry. They made their first visit to campus in Spring 2004, as the new program was beginning its third year.

Following a very rigorous review of every aspect of the program, including the efficiency of lab equipment to interviews with students, to carefully evaluating the components of each course in the curriculum, SUU received the maximum number of years of accreditation. The accreditation



Integrated Engineering students work on the wind tunnel in the fluids and materials lab.

extends retroactively from October 1, 2003.

The IE Program was developed to meet the needs of a growing demand in the marketplace. Specifically designed to meet the needs of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies, SUU's program produces "generalist engineers" who can perform a wide variety of engineering services.

"The IE program at SUU is special," student **Nolan Gray** states. (see related story below) "It wasn't what I was expecting in an engineering program, but it is more. I like the diversity of the program best; I'm gaining

important knowledge in all the fields of engineering. The professors and the way they teach," Nolan says, "empowers students. I could come and talk to them about my project and they say 'have you thought about this' or 'have you tried this,' and then they'd turn me loose again! I love it!"

SUU President **Steven D. Bennion** states, "Our Integrated Engineering program is preparing a major contribution to economic development in our region and beyond. We are pleased to have a very capable faculty team providing the leadership and instruction for this critically needed program."

SUPER STUDENT

Nolan Gray, a junior Integrated Engineering major at Southern Utah University, has successfully built a jet engine.

From Huntington, Utah, Nolan was enrolled Fall semester in the Mechanical Design course of the Integrated Engineering degree curriculum. Just like in the real-world, he was given a job assignment and told to go do it! He immediately began doing research, surfing the Internet, and talking to professionals working in the field and his professors.

Using a donated turbo charger from a wrecked 18-wheeler from Barney Trucking in Salina, Utah, and with the generous support of City Muffler, Rice Machining, Construction Steel, and Guymon Machining in Cleveland, Utah, the task was completed. "This is just an example of how much the community supports our

students and curriculum with little kindnesses," Bill Pratt, Assistant Professor of Engineering, says.

Nolan's model brings fresh air into the engine under pressure and mixes it with fuel in the combustion chamber where it ignites, explodes, and powers the turbine, which turns the compressor blades and brings in more cold air. "Nolan did a fantastic job on this assignment," Pratt exclaims. "I'm proud of him, and he's thrilled about it. He does a little happy dance around the machine."

Nolan is a transfer student from the College of Eastern Utah. He came to SUU when he heard about its new and unique Integrated Engineering program. He's already working at Bulloch Bros. Engineering firm as a civil designer.