What is EPICS High?
EPICS is a design-based, service learning program that teaches students about engineering, computing, and technology fields while civically engaging them in their local communities. The program was founded at Purdue in 1995, and has grown at Purdue and beyond to include additional national and international universities and now high school sites (EPICS High). In the EPICS programs teams of students work on projects that address the engineering and technology-based needs of community service and education organizations. This partnership provides many benefits to the students and community alike.

EPICS High has the potential to play a role in addressing current issues including:
- Drop out rates
- A declining interest in science and engineering fields
- Underrepresentation of women and minorities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) fields
- Compelling needs of underserved in the communities
- STEM education reform
- Global competitiveness

EPICS High Ingredients?
Students
Teachers
School Administrators
Community Partners
Business & Corporate Patners
Colleges & Universities

Watch the EPICS High website for more information on training at www.epics-high.ecn.purdue.edu
Benefits of EPICS High to Schools:

- Develop long-term partnerships that address educational needs of high school students and make a significant impact on the local community
- Engage and motivate High School students in the fields of engineering and computer sciences
- Effectively teach students the professional skills needed to succeed with hands-on experiences
- Well-designed teacher training with limited scholarships available
- Network of schools across the country
- EPICS High Curriculum developed to lead teachers through facilitating an EPICS High program
- Fulfills community service graduation requirement with a meaningful experience
- Gives students access to experts in local community organizations, businesses and companies
- Products and materials offered to EPICS schools from program partners

Starting EPICS High… For Schools

New schools are being sought to add breadth and new dimensions to EPICS High. All schools who agree to the requirements for participating will have access to and benefit from dissemination, training, and support materials provided by the EPICS High program, and EPICS staff to work with them. Schools interested in simply learning more and/or starting an EPICS-like program are encouraged to attend EPICS training.

Easy steps for getting started…

**Step One:** Teachers and/or a school administrators attend an EPICS High training

**Step Two:** Complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on how you plan to implement and support your program

**Step Three:** Identify an initial community partner for your EPICS High program

**Step Four:** Identify engineering expertise within the school or community

**Step Five:** Recruit/identify students who will be involved

**Step Six:** Start working on projects that make a positive impact in your local community and engage students in a unique, hands-on learning experience!

Contact Pamela Turner for more information on the EPICS High program at plturner@purdue.edu or visit www.epics-high.ecn.purdue

EPICS High… For Community or Industry Partners

EPICS High meets a critical educational need of introducing high school students to engineering and technical design opportunities through hands-on service-learning projects within their local communities. This innovative approach also meets vital needs within communities by providing not-for-profit organizations access to resources for the creation of products to improve services.

Examples of Community Partners Include:

- Local Non-profit Organization (Habitat for Humanity, YWCA, Community and Family Resources and Services)
- Local Government Offices (County Probation Department, City Parks Department, Neighborhood Revitalization)
- Feeder or Sister Schools (Local Middle and Elementary Schools, Area High Schools)
- Area Museums and Zoos

Corporate partners are being sought to add expertise and other resources to the EPICS High schools.

Roles of Industry and Professional Partners:

- Mentors to High School teams/projects to add engineering and other expertise to compliment teachers
- Provide materials and supplies (Gifts in Kind)
- Financially support (sponsor) teams

How can Community and Industry Partners Get Involved in EPICS High?

- Contact EPICS High staff for opportunities
- Talk to local schools about partnering with them to start a program
- Determine what type of support/partnership you can offer
- Identify teachers and/or administrators at schools to attend training
- Help schools identify projects to pursue
- Identify additional expertise to partner with schools

This material is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service under Learn and Serve America Grant No. 06KSHIN001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation or the Learn and Serve America Program.