PREFACE is a two-week residential summer experience at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for talented high school sophomores and juniors, who will enter the 11th or 12th grade in the Fall of 2014, from groups that have been historically and traditionally underrepresented or underserved in science, engineering, and technological fields, and are interested in pursuing careers in engineering and technological professions.
ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION
To qualify, applicants must be entering the 11th or 12th grade in September 2014. The PREFACE Selection Committee reviews each application and makes its recommendation to the project director. Selection is based on high school academic performance, standardized test scores, quality of essay, and recommendations. In addition, since all programs are taught in English, students must have a strong understanding of the English language.

The application deadline is March 31, 2014. No applications will be accepted after that date. Annually, the number of applicants far exceeds the available funding. The maximum number of participants for 2014 is 26. The program is limited to U.S. citizens and permanent residents from underrepresented and underserved backgrounds.

PURPOSE
Participation in the PREFACE Summer Program will:
• Provide experience using an engineering process approach to resolve a problem (e.g., design, troubleshoot, innovate, model, revise, and assess outcomes)
• Create opportunities to develop leadership and team-building skills
• Explore career opportunities available to the engineering professions as a means to develop a deeper understanding of the role and expectations of an engineering education
• Present a snapshot of college life, and its academic, social, cultural, civic, and environmental experiences.

CURRICULUM FEATURES
Core Disciplines—Introduction to Manufacturing Processes, Introduction to Electronics, Introduction to Engineering Design, and Computing with Solid Works
Engineering Disciplines—Biomedical, Mechanical, Aeronautical, Electrical, Computer and Systems, Civil and Environmental, Power Systems, Nuclear, Materials, Industrial, and Chemical
Leadership Development—Archer Center for Student Leadership—team building and engineering design projects
Career Development—Center for Career & Professional Development
Civic Engagement—Explore the region, volunteer, and give back to the community
College Preparedness—Sessions on the college application and financial aid processes
COST
PREFACE is funded through annual individual, corporate, and foundation contributions. PREFACE subsidizes each participant’s round-trip transportation to Rensselaer, tuition, fees (including laundry), and room and board for the two-week session. The only cost to participants is the health center fee, and personal and miscellaneous expenses such as snacks and souvenirs.

HOUSING AND MEALS
Students live in a residence hall on the Rensselaer campus. Students will share a room with another PREFACE student. Meals are provided on campus by Rensselaer Dining Services. Participants receive three meals per day.

RECREATION
Participants will have access to campus recreational facilities, including basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, outdoor track, baseball/softball fields, the Mueller Fitness Center, and the facilities of the Rensselaer Union.

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE
Application materials including the completed PREFACE application [Part I (applicant information), II (essay), and III (scholastic information)], the student’s high school transcript, a letter of recommendation from the student’s math or science teacher, and a letter of recommendation from the student’s guidance counselor must be completed and received no later than March 31, 2014. The application is found on pages 1 and 2 and on the PREFACE website at http://doso.rpi.edu/precollege.

Send your application to:
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
PREFACE Program 2014
Dean of Students Office
110 Eighth Street, Academy Hall 4629
Troy, NY 12180

For more information, send an e-mail to smithc@rpi.edu or call (518) 276-3098.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute admits qualified students without regard to age, race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national or ethnic origin, veteran status, marital status, or disability.
PART I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name ______________________________________________ Date of Birth ________________________________
Address ____________________________________________ Telephone ________________________________
City ________________________________________________ Gender: Male _____ Female _____
State ____________________________ Zip _____________ US Citizen or Permanent Resident: Yes _____ No _____
E-Mail ____________________________________________ Disability: Yes _____ No _____

Rensselaer seeks students from all ethnic and racial backgrounds. We ask that you please complete the information below (optional).

Are you of Hispanic or Latino descent? (Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture)

Yes _____ No _____

What is your race? (Select one or more)

American Indian or Alaskan Native _____ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander _____
Asian _____ White _____
Black or African American _____

List all pre-college programs not administered by your high school that you have participated in since your freshman year:
__________________________________________________ ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________ ________________________________________________

PART II: ESSAY

On a separate sheet of paper, comment on why you are interested in participating in the PREFACE Program, what you expect to gain from your participation, and who has most influenced you in pursuing a career in an engineering or engineering-related profession. The essay should be written in English, and MUST NOT EXCEED TWO TYPEWRITTEN PAGES. Attach your essay to the application packet.

PART III: SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION

This section is to be completed by the student and the student’s guidance counselor. The section is found on the PREFACE APPLICATION—page 2 of 2.

THE COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2014. IT SHOULD BE MAILED IN ITS ENTIRETY TO:

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
PREFACE PROGRAM 2014
Dean of Students Office
110 Eighth Street, Academy Hall 4629
Troy, NY 12180
PART I & PART II
These sections on applicant information and essay are to be completed by the student. They are found on the PREFACE APPLICATION—page 1 of 2.

PART III: SCHOLASTIC INFORMATION

This part is completed by the student:

Name __________________________________________ Date of Birth ________________________________

Current Grade in School ______ Year of High School Graduation _______

High School ____________________________________________________________

School Address _________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _____________ Zip ______________

Guidance Counselor Name _______________________ School Telephone ________________

This part is completed by the student’s guidance counselor:

PSAT  Critical Reading ______ Math _____ Writing ______ H.S. Average ____________

SAT I  Critical Reading ______ Math _____ Writing ______ Rank / Class Size _______

PLAN Composite ______ ACT Composite ________

FINAL OR MOST RECENT GRADES IN:

Math  Course I / Math A ______ Algebra I _____ Trigonometry ______ Statistics _______

Course II / Math B ______ Algebra II _____ Pre-Calculus ______ Other (specify) ___

Geometry _____ Calculus ___________ ______________

Science  Earth Science _______ Biology ______ Chemistry ______ Physics _______

Computer Science ______ Other (specify) _________________________________

Guidance Counselor Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

PREFACE APPLICATION CHECK LIST:

_____ Completed PREFACE APPLICATION [Parts I (Applicant Information), II (Essay), & III (Scholastic Information)]

_____ High School Transcript

_____ Letter of Recommendation from current math or science teacher

_____ Letter of Recommendation from guidance counselor

Rensselaer must receive the completed application no later than March 31, 2014.