About the Program:

Rensselaer School of Engineering Education Outreach Center has begun a new undergraduate initiative called Rensselaer Engineering Ambassador program.

Mission Statement:

The Rensselaer Engineering Ambassadors (EAs) are an assembly of highly motivated students focused on inspiring a younger audience to explore the role of engineers in society.

Adopted August 30, 2011 by the 2011-2012 Engineering Ambassadors

Twenty-eight of the brightest engineering undergraduates from across the Rensselaer School of Engineering were recruited in Spring 2011 to engage in series of interactions with a younger audience of middle and high school students. These UGs students exhibited a real interest in working with a younger audience and sharing their passion on engineering.

How does the program work?

A pair of EAs will work together, select an engineering related challenge, perform literary research, define the real world challenge, identify current engineering solutions and design an engaging presentation to tell the story. The presentation will incorporate several key elements including drawing a connection to 6-12 grades science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) 6-12 grade coursework and the perspective of engineers as creative individuals with the skills to solve the big world problems. We have asked each student to identify a technical advisor – Rensselaer faculty or staff to authenticate the technical content of the presentation. I do not anticipate the time commitment to be more than 1 or 2 half hour meetings over a semester.

EA training will include developing the EAs communications skills that include a unique presentation technique and style. The students will also work closely with 6-12 grade educators to draw a direct correlation between the STEM coursework and concepts being re-introduce within the presentation. This connection will help to define the relevance of what is being taught in the classroom. The EA students will also design a complimentary hands-on experiment to further illustrate the concepts defined in the presentation.

After much practice and refinement of the final presentation, an event will be scheduled whereby approximately 4 EAs teams will travel to a middle or high school to present in multiple STEM related classrooms within a school district. This will result in a tremendous exposure of the EAs within the school that will generate a real buzz within the school. The EAs will also participate in a culminating school assembly as a panel of UGs representing multiple engineering disciplines. This will enable middle / high school students an opportunity to ask specific questions concerning engineering disciplines and college life.

This program has several funding streams to support. We have corporate sponsors, Rensselaer Research Centers interested in supporting educational outreach and the URP program whereby the students will be performing literature research to build content.
**Needed Documentation:**

- EA Recommendation Form
- Current Transcript
- Current involvement with URP’s
- Resume
- List of Extracurricular Activities if not included in the resume

**Interview Rounds:**

- Round 1 – Submit completed documentation
- Round 2 – 15 – 20 minute interview
- Round 3 – Presentation (details to be shared at later date)
- Round 4 – Completion of EA Program Contract

**Upon Acceptance:**

- Completion of EA Orientation Program