

# **The Infinity Project: Ten Years Later**

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## **Abstract**

The Infinity Project is a leader in high-tech engineering for secondary schools. Developed in 1999, it now reaches over 400 schools in 38 states. This presentation will discuss the initial goals of the program and the challenges of introducing engineering into secondary school curricula. It will also discuss the importance of providing a full package – cutting edge curriculum, outstanding instructional materials, hands-on design projects, low-cost high impact classroom technology, and best-in-class professional development. We include an assessment of the impact of the Infinity Project – in quantitative and qualitative terms. Finally, we present a glimpse into the next phase of The Infinity Project, and its audience.

## **Biographies**

**Delores M. Etter** holds the Texas Instruments Distinguished Chair in Engineering Education at Southern Methodist University (SMU). She is also the Director of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education. Before coming to SMU, Dr. Etter was a faculty member in the Electrical Engineering Department at the United States Naval Academy. From 2005-2007 she was the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition. She is also a former faculty member at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of New Mexico, and was a Visiting Professor at Stanford University. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a former member of the National Science Board.

**Geoffrey Orsak** is Dean of the Lyle School of Engineering at SMU. He is one of the founding members of the Infinity Project, and provided the leadership for this program over the last 10 years. He was formerly an Associate Dean of Engineering for Research at SMU, and a member of the Electrical Engineering Department. He is a former faculty member at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.

**Sally Wood** is currently a Program Director in the Division of Engineering Education and Centers of the Directorate of Engineering of the National Science Foundation where she has managed the Innovations in Engineering Education, Curriculum and Infrastructure Program. She is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at Santa Clara University and has been a member of the faculty since 1985. She is a Fellow of the IEEE and has served on the board of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Heads Association, the Board of Governors of the IEEE Signal Processing Society and the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, and the NSF Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering. Recently she received the 2009 ASEE Electrical and Computer Engineering Division Distinguished Educator Award. She is also one of the founding members of the Infinity Project.