

Technology management in education: labs, libraries, and networks

- [GOVERNMENT](#)

- [ZDNET HOME](#)

-

Education IT Blog

January 31, 2007

Georgia Tech, Microsoft bring tabletop robots to CS program

- [Education Technology](#)
- [Higher Ed](#)
- [Computer science](#)
- [Robotics](#)

One day, in the not too distant future, students may be conducting experiments with robots for lab partners. To that end, Georgia Tech and other universities have teamed up with Microsoft's [Institute for Personal Robots in Education](#) (IPRE) to provide tabletop robots, hoping to encourage and promote computer science programs in their schools, [reports Industry Week](#).

In a press release statement, Craig Mundie, chief research and strategy officer at Microsoft, spoke of the importance of attracting new students to the field of computer science to encourage innovation.

"We want to use the power of robotics to capture the imagination of tomorrow's computer scientists. By introducing exciting new technologies into the computer-science curriculum, we believe that we'll greatly increase its appeal — especially to students who may not have considered majoring in this field."

Tucker Balch, associate professor and initiative director at Georgia Tech, said the curriculum emphasis is changing from theoretical concepts to practical applications. New students taking the mandatory introductory computer science course are learning about computers by programming their individually assigned table-top robot.

By emphasizing practical applications Georgia Tech hopes to both reduce student failure rates and motivate greater interest in studying computer technology.

IPRE is hoping to expand into hundreds of universities. Currently, Microsoft is also working with Bryn Mawr College and Carnegie Mellon University.

"The time is right to transform computer science education, and creativity and contextualization are the key drivers," said Richard A. DeMillo, dean of the College of Computing at Georgia Tech.

"We are committed to expanding the horizons of our students by incorporating cutting-edge and engaging courses — such as robotics — as core components of the curriculum. This effort, led by associate professor Tucker Balch, serves as yet another unconventional approach to education at the College of Computing at Georgia Tech."

Talkback - Add your opinion

[Add your opinion](#)

[«« Previous Post](#) | [Next Post »»](#)

SPONSORED LINKS

K-12 Laptop Cases

Designed for students and schools Save money & reduce damage!
www.laptopclassroom.com

World Of Robots (K-8)

Exciting and educational programs For students in K-8
www.robotassemblies.com

Intelligent Robotics

Robots, Motion Control, Vision from US manufacturer, Adept Technology
www.adept.com

SolidWorks Education

Engineering and Technology Programs K-12 Curriculum
www.solidworks.com

Technology in Education

Grad program designed to integrate technology into your classroom
lesley.edu

[\(about\)](#)

▼ advertisement



HP COLOR LASERJET PRINTERS.
The reliable workhorse for your business.
[Learn more »](#)





September 19, 2006
HP Printers

Quick Poll

What's your education IT environment?

- K-12

- High school
- College/University
- School District
- Other IT administration
- 

Sponsored White Papers

[Meeting CIPA requirements at the Nueva Esperanza Charter School](#)

Download this case study to learn how the iPrism is enabling Nueva Esperanza to protect its students and systems against a host of Internet-borne threats

[View the Case Study](#)

Recent Entries

- [If calculators=Chuck E. Cheese employee, then computers=?](#)
- [Nicktropolis: Second Life for the young set](#)
- [Bill's FutureShock: Technology will distinguish colleges](#)
- [UC Berkeley gets \\$500m for clean fuel research](#)
- [Georgia Tech, Microsoft bring tabletop robots to CS program](#)
- [Legal download service Ruckus expands to all colleges](#)

Archives

February 2007

M T W T F S S

 1 2 3 4
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28

- [« Jan](#)
 - [February 2007](#)
 - [January 2007](#)
 - [December 2006](#)
 - [November 2006](#)
 - [October 2006](#)
 - [September 2006](#)

Categories

- [Apple](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Classroom Tech](#)
- [Computer science](#)

- [Computer Testing](#)
- [Conferences](#)
- [Course management software](#)
- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Developmental issues](#)
- [Digital Media](#)
- [Digital texts](#)
- [DigitalDivide](#)
- [Distance Learning](#)
- [Emerging Tech](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Gaming](#)
- [Green](#)
- [Hardware](#)
- [Higher Ed](#)
- [Information Systems](#)
- [International](#)
- [IT Management](#)
- [K-12](#)
- [Legal Issues](#)
- [Libraries](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [New Media](#)
- [Open Source](#)
- [Policy](#)
- [Preschool](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Robotics](#)
- [Science Ed](#)
- [Social networking](#)
- [Special Ed](#)
- [Student information services](#)
- [Students](#)
- [Teaching](#)
- [Texts & Materials](#)
- [Videogames](#)
- [Vista](#)
- [Vo-Tech](#)
- [Web](#)

[BNET](#) | [CNET.com](#) | [CNET Channel](#) | [CNET Download.com](#) | [CNET News.com](#) | [CNET Reviews](#) | [CNET Shopper.com](#)

[GameSpot](#) | [International Media](#) | [MP3.com](#) | [mySimon](#) | [Release 1.0](#) | [Search.com](#) | [TechRepublic](#) | [Webshots](#) | [ZDNet](#) | [International Sites](#)

[About CNET Networks](#)

[Copyright](#) ©2006 CNET Networks, Inc. All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)