

**NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
RESOLUTION FOR BOARD ACTION
JUNE 2003**

RESOLUTION #04-06/2003

SUBJECT: Mandated Technology Education for New York State Middle Schools

SUBMITTED BY: Broome Chapter NYSSPE

WHEREAS, On November 3, 1990, the Board of Directors of NYSSPE adopted a Resolution to “express directly to the New York State Commissioner of Education, NYSSPE’s support of the Technology Education Program and the need to provide students with technological literacy; and encouraged individual NYSSPE members to contact their local schools to aid and encourage implementation of the Principles of Engineering Programs”; and

WHEREAS, with New York State nurture, the Principles of Engineering Program has blossomed into a 4-year high school pre-engineering curriculum called Project Lead the Way and “grown from 11 high schools, mostly in upstate NY in 1997, to 500 high schools in 33 states by 2003” (source – *Engineering Times*, April 2003); and

WHEREAS, all students need to be exposed to mandatory Technology Education in Middle School in order to gain some familiarity with how to use, manage, and understand technology in the society in which they will live and work; and to encourage underrepresented minority students to participate in pre-engineering and other technology education courses in high school to jump start their enrollment in College programs leading to exciting, high-paying technology careers; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department is currently “taking purposeful actions to strengthen middle grades education and to improve student performance on the State’s intermediate assessments, ...including, “what is the role of the exploratory courses (art , music, technology education, home and career skills, physical education, etc.) in the middle grades program”, with an aim to making a decision by February 2004; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states Massachusetts (2000, Board of Education) and New Jersey (2003, State Legislature), with whom we compete directly for high technology industry and jobs, have taken national leadership as the first states to adopt engineering and technology studies as part of the K-12 core curriculum; and

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