

News from the Stamford Public Schools

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Contact: Paul Gross, AITE Principal (203) 977-4336

**AITE STUDENTS AND STAFF RETURN TO SCHOOL IN
\$42 MILLION STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY**
Community cuts ribbon on school's seventh anniversary

The Stamford community will officially open the doors to the city's latest architectural achievement, the new home for the **Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4th** at 411 High Ridge Road. Attendees will include Mayor Dannel Malloy; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr and the Board of Education; AITE Principal Paul Gross and his staff and students; elected officials; several founders and partners of AITE; and the architect, contractor, and city employees who worked on the two year-long construction project.

The \$42 million, 21st century building was completely funded by the State of Connecticut. It consists of 120,000 square feet covering three stories, which are connected by a cantilevered staircase. There are 40 classrooms, 5 science labs, 5 computer labs, a media center, exercise room, gymnasium, dance studio, teacher workstations, an atrium, an amphitheater, and a 350 seat cafeteria.

According to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr, the new building symbolizes Stamford's commitment to 21st century learning. "The opening of this magnificent new school is possible thanks to the vision of Principal Paul Gross, the support of the Mayor and the Board of Education, and the hard work of the design, engineering, and construction teams. Without a doubt, Stamford now has one of the most high tech schools in the country."

AITE is the first school of its kind in Connecticut for high school students interested in technology. It first opened seven years ago in Rippowam Center, where it shared space with a middle school. Since 2000, AITE has grown from 220 to 525 students in grades 9-12. It is a college preparatory, interdistrict magnet high school that draws students from Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Ridgefield, and Stratford. AITE offers a specialized curriculum in Information Technology as well as Architecture and Engineering. In addition, students take four years of Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and World Language. There are more than 30 electives including architectural design, CAD technology, civil engineering, robotics, pre-engineering, digital electronics, and mathematics.

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“The forward-looking design of the building matches the spirit and philosophy of our school,” said Principal Paul Gross. “Our goal is to prepare our students for the evolving global environment in which critical thinking, digital mastery, core knowledge, teamwork, effective communication, knowledge of two or three world languages, and social accountability are the necessary and significant skills. Our new building will allow us to further our successful efforts in this direction.”

Advanced Placement and other college-level courses are also available. As a smaller learning community environment, AITE offers learning experiences that are project-based and collaborative. The school and its principal, Paul Gross, have won awards from the SBC Foundation, the National Association of Partners in Education, the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership, and the Congressional Black Caucus.

AITE is accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. Open houses are scheduled for December 1, 2007, January 10, 2008, and January 12, 2008. Applications will be available online starting October 1. For more information on AITE, visit www.aitestamford.org

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