



## **Editorial: Come Together for Innovation**

*by Nicole Adrian*

Many higher education institutions have great programs in place for their students to learn new, innovative concepts and experience real-world, on-the-job situations. But when two great programs or organizations come together, even better programs are born.

Partnerships at universities are nothing new, but some higher education institutions are forming new alliances using innovative means that provide even better and more authentic real-world experience.

One institution doing just that is Purdue University's College of Technology in West Lafayette, IN. The university partners with Indianapolis-based Rolls-Royce Corp. to develop a master's in science curriculum for engineers. This collaboration was developed to provide engineers with an opportunity to pursue an advanced degree in a broader study area. Additionally, through this program, Rolls-Royce hopes to retain its engineers and provide them a way to grow as professionals by developing new skills.

Another innovative partnership is under way in Charlotte, NC. Queens University, in collaboration with Presbyterian School of Nursing, offers an accelerated bachelor's of science in nursing (ABSN) program, providing a new option for entry into professional nursing. The first cohort of 32 traditional and underrepresented students began their studies in May 2010. The 12-month long ABSN curriculum includes 58 credit hours and nearly 600 hours of clinical practice in multiple inpatient and community settings.

Partnerships like these can only help students build their on-the-job skills and provide them access to situations they will experience after they graduate. By having more higher education institutions form these types of innovative partnerships, today's—and future—graduates will be even more prepared for their careers.

### **Be sure to check out NQEC**

ASQ's National Quality Education Conference will take place Nov. 7-9 in Chicago. It's just a few days away, but there is still time to sign up. Visit <https://secure.asq.org/conferences/nqec2010/registration.html> to register online, or you can register at the conference.

NQEC provides wonderful opportunities for educators to network and learn about each other's programs and projects. Attendees also will have the opportunity to listen to excellent keynote speakers, including Jo Anderson Jr., the senior advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education. Visit <http://nqec.asq.org/index.html> to learn more about what NQEC has to offer.

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