

ISTF Web Site  
<http://istf.ucf.edu>



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA – COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

# INTERNET SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR

## What is the ISTF ?

The **Internet Science and Technology Fair (ISTF)** is a web-based science and technology competition. Teams of students from across the U.S. compete for certificates awarded by the National Medal of Technology Program at the U.S. Department of Commerce . The yearly competition is for student teams in grades 3 through 12 using guidelines based on national science content standards from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It challenges students to apply National Critical Technologies (vital to our country's economy and security) to real world problems.

The goals of the ISTF are to:

*heighten student interest in pursuing technical careers,  
increase student awareness of the impact science and technology  
has on their lives, world, and economy, and  
provide teachers with a tool to incorporate examples of science and  
engineering into their curricula.*

Students are challenged to use information and communication tools as they work as a team to complete a four-month research project; master e-mail to request technical information from scientists and engineers; search, analyze and synthesize electronic information sources from the Internet; and present their final research findings in a web site format.

## Pioneering TEACHERS Needed:

The key to successfully competing in the Internet Science and Technology Fair is the **TEACHER**. She/he will wear different hats once a decision is made to accept the ISTF challenge. The **teacher** is, in a very real sense, the team's manager, helping student team members to use their talents and time wisely. As students become more familiar with the ISTF process, the **teacher** will be pointing out areas where the team needs to work harder or to clarify positions related to content guidelines and program requirements. The **teacher** will also become the team's cheerleader, acknowledging and praising members for the work they accomplish in this new and possibly unfamiliar learning experience. On occasion, the **teacher** will be called upon to be a referee. Students who are not used to working together will need a teacher's guidance as they team to decide on a specific project, what information to use, delegate responsibilities and build their final project web sites.

For additional information contact Bruce Furino, Director of the ISTF, at [bfurino@istf.ucf.edu](mailto:bfurino@istf.ucf.edu) or (407) 249-7141. For specifics regarding the ISTF Program, please visit our web site at <http://istf.ucf.edu>.

### Schedule for the 2003/2004 ISTF

Student Teams Enroll	Sep-Nov 2003
First Progress Report	Dec. 2003
Second Progress Report	Jan. 2004
Submission of Final Project URL's	Feb. 2004
Judging Begins	Mar. 2004
Announcement of ISTF Winning Teams	Apr. 2004
When to get involved	NOW