



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HI-TEC 2017 Innovative Program Award Presented to SEMI High Tech U, Milpitas, California**

WACO, Texas (June 23, 2017) – The HI-TEC Innovative Program Award will be presented July 19, 2017, at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI-TEC) in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year's recipient is SEMI High Tech U of Milpitas, California.

The HI-TEC Innovative Program Award recognizes teams of advanced technology education professionals who have designed and implemented significant innovations that have led to a positive impact in connecting students to technology education.

SEMI High Tech U (HTU) is the flagship program of the SEMI Foundation and was begun in 2002. A three-day STEM career exploration program, HTU is developing career awareness in high-tech fields for high school sophomores and juniors across the country. To date, they have reached more than 6,000 students in eleven states in the United States as well as seven countries internationally. All programs bring students onto industry sites where industry instructors teach the HTU modules. This unique delivery system allows students to meet engineers and other industry personnel in a face-to-face setting where questions about relevancy are encouraged. Since this is a turnkey enterprise, the sponsoring companies provide the funding, sites, and volunteer instructors. SEMI provides the materials, curriculum, classroom supplies, training, and overall program management.

Documented outcomes of the student program are impressive: 70% of HTU alumni graduate college with STEM degrees and end up working in STEM careers. Moreover, the college completion rate for High Tech U grads is nearly five times greater than the national norm. The U.S. Department of Education reports that, on average, 59% of students going on to higher education (all fields) complete within six years. The HTU impact survey results show 87% are enrolled in or have completed college. Equally important, HTU students gain the confidence to succeed in high-tech careers. HTU motivates them by showing them the relevance of their classwork through connections to real-world problems and technology.

High Tech U is a model innovative program featuring a unique industry partnership that has proven successful. There is no comparable longer-running program in the United States with such demonstrable results. The program epitomizes a true partnership with industry for student success in high-tech careers.

This award represents HI-TEC's commitment to serving the advanced technology education community and recognizing programs that strive toward the same goal by increasing student success in technology programs.

The High Impact Technology Exchange Conference ([www.highimpact-tec.org](http://www.highimpact-tec.org)) is produced by a consortium of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education centers and projects and is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and contributions from corporate and industry partners.

Contact:  
Pamela Silvers, HI-TEC Awards Chair

[pamelajsilvers@abtech.edu](mailto:pamelajsilvers@abtech.edu)

(828) 398-7249

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