



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 31, 2006

Contact:

Josie Patterson
(617) 253-4422
josiep@mit.edu

MIT Museum Presents
Tech'ing it to the Next Level
Highlights from iCampus, the MIT-Microsoft Alliance

Emerging Technologies Gallery

*“The opportunities of the digital age have irreversibly
disturbed the educational universe.”*

Charles Vest

Tech'ing it to the Next Level
May 23, 2006 – December 2006

CAMBRIDGE, MA —Opening Tuesday, May 23 is a new MIT Museum exhibit that just might help teachers redesign their teaching methods. Whether used in a physics laboratory, a literature classroom, or a physical therapy session, educational technologies are radically changing how people learn and interact with one another. This new exhibit provides a rare opportunity for educators and the general public to learn about integrating cutting-edge technologies into the classroom and other learning environments. ***Tech'ing It to the Next Level*** is a multi-disciplinary, interactive exhibition of tools and innovations developed by MIT researchers.

iCampus, the home for the MIT-Microsoft Alliance, is sponsoring the exhibit as a culmination of seven years of work which has spawned a number of interactive technologies that will be on display. Now winding their way into the classroom and beyond are projects such as:

- Huggable: a robotic companion based upon pet therapy research and created for therapeutic use with children, the elderly, and patients in a variety of healthcare settings. At the heart of the Huggable research is the focus on understanding the

positive effects of comforting touch. The Huggable's sensitive 'skin' (underlayered with thousands of sensors) enables it to understand relational, affective touch.

- iLab: Using an internet connection students from around the world are able to conduct real-time lab experiments using instruments based at MIT. The purpose is to enrich science and engineering education by vastly increasing the scope of experiments that students are exposed to in the course of their academic careers.
- Technology-Enabled Active Learning (TEAL): a revolutionary approach to teaching undergraduate physics, which combines a studio format, hands-on lab experiments, visualizations, and small group collaboration into a single classroom experience. TEAL was launched at MIT in the Fall of 2000. TEAL has encouraged and inspired students to engage with physics and has produced measurable learning gains for students.

“We are currently witnessing the greatest degree of collective action in educational innovation in my thirty years at the Institute,” says Professor Tom Magnanti, Dean, MIT School of Engineering and iCampus Co-director. Continuing, he explains “One of the most exciting aspects of the iCampus project is its scale, and the fact that we are bringing together faculty and student expertise from across traditional academic departments and disciplines.” Now at the MIT Museum, the general public is welcomed to examine a range of products that have resulted from these collaborations.

The MIT iCampus program supports and disseminates faculty initiatives in educational technology. iCampus sponsors innovations, helps incubate them through classroom use, and promotes their adoption, evaluation, and continued evolution both within MIT and through worldwide multi-institutional cooperation. iCampus is based at MIT, supported by Microsoft Corporation and is conducted in collaboration with Microsoft Research.

More Information about iCampus:

see: <http://icampus.mit.edu/>