



NEWS

SPORTS

OPINION

REVIEW

[ABOUT](#)[ALUMNI](#)[DISPLAY ADS](#)[CLASSIFIEDS](#)[ETHICS](#)[JOBS](#)[PRINT](#)

Search

**Today's Column**

Obama at the Bat



Eugene Lee

March Madness**Features****Front Page****Archives**

2007
2006
2005
2004
2003

Campus to Create Engineering Network With India

BY TRACI KAWAGUCHI

*Contributing Writer**Monday, August 1, 2005*

UC Berkeley will partner with six universities to establish a joint engineering curriculum which educators said could help establish research collaboration between the United States and India.

Through a three-year agreement, UC Berkeley and six other institutions-UC San Diego's Jacobs School of Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, the State University of New York at Buffalo, Case Western Reserve University and Amrita University in India-will team up to enhance engineering education through a new satellite network stationed at Amrita University.

Faculty from the universities will be encouraged to spend a semester overseas on sabbatical, laying a framework for potential research collaborations between the two countries.

Signatories of the memorandum, which coincided with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to the United States, said the compact is a step toward establishing a model for the future of engineering education.

"With the help of American professors, these satellite courses will turn more students into top-level engineers, not just for India, but potentially for Ph.D. programs and businesses in the U.S. as well," said Venkat Rangan, vice chancellor of Amrita University, in a statement.

The international collaboration drew corporate sponsorship from Qualcomm Corp., Microsoft and Cadence Design Systems for American participation.

UC Berkeley electrical engineering and computer science professor Shankar Sastry, who serves as d Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society, one of three research centers also involve international partnerships are critical in securing the university's role as a leader in engineering educa

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