Southern Polytechnic State University
Develops New Research Centers

Marietta, GA (Jan. 20, 2010) – In order to highlight Southern Polytechnic State University’s faculty’s research interests, Southern Polytechnic’s Applied Research Center (SPARC) announces the approval and opening of eight new research centers.

These centers are:

- **The Biometrics Recognition Research Center** – which will evaluate and develop facial recognition commercial products and conduct facial recognition research for innovative products.

- **The Center for Information Security Education** – while maintaining its designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education, will develop new information security curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and conduct research and development in information assurance and security.

- **The Center for Nuclear Power Generation** – which will seek to establish SPSU as a leader in Nuclear Power Generation professional education by enabling students and other participants to be trained and certified in industry regulatory codes and standards and becoming recognized as a regional resource on industry codes, standards and guidelines.

- **The SPSU eGov Center** – which will conduct research and development on electronic government (eGov) processes, services and technology, thereby establishing SPSU as a leader in eGov study and education.

- **The Georgia Pavement Research Center** – established as a nationally recognized pavement research program to provide educational and training courses to lab technicians/engineers.

- **Supply Chain Risk Management Center** – which will blend applied operations research, technology research, education, student involvement and industry participation.

- **The Usability Center** - will promote the state of the art in the area of Usability testing, and help institutions and industry gain the edge they need to identify how to better design products with a user-centered, task oriented design focus.
Visualization and Simulation Research Center - will provide a common set of visualization and simulation tools to assist scientists and students from diverse fields to understand, appreciate and learn from each other’s efforts.

The Alternative Energy Center - will conduct research, engage in educational outreach programs, and promote good practices in energy conversion, storage, and delivery.

Center for Advanced Materials Research and Education - will bring together SPSU experts in engineering and technology (mechanical, civil and electrical) and science (chemistry, physics and biology) to establish integrated research, education, and student-mentoring in an effort to understand and improve engineering materials by controlling the composition, structure, and properties from the microscopic to the macroscopic.

Center for Applied Media and Gaming Arts - will bring together a diverse collection of teachers and researchers to create game and media applications for enhancing K-16 learning, corporate training, entertainment, and public policy advocacy. The center also provides a venue in which undergraduate and graduate game and media projects can develop into commercially viable products.

International Knowledge & Research Center for Green Building (IKRC) is to become the virtual and physical destination for educators and professionals of green building sustainability through research, teaching and curriculum development, and community outreach. In addition, the Knowledge Center will house a products & technology showcase so that learners in the Green Building space can see, touch, and experience the latest in sustainable products, systems and technology.

“The addition of these research centers will help SPARC to support SPSU faculty in research, development and the application of technology within their areas of expertise,” said Ruston Hunt, Dean of Extended University at Southern Polytechnic State University. “Establishing research centers allows faculty to work together on projects of mutual interest in areas that support the University’s mission, and promote interdisciplinary approaches to solving problems that will benefit the citizens and industries in Georgia. SPARC will support these Centers in lots of logistical ways, including helping to identify opportunities, developing proposals and administrating grants and contracts upon award.”

“These research centers help provide real research opportunities for SPSU’s faculty, and help make us even more of a place of learning, inquiry, dissemination, deliberation and service,” said Dr. Mir Atiqullah, associate professor in the Mechanical Engineering Technology department.

The research centers are designed to foster collaboration and cooperation within and among departments. Each will be involved in applied research, consulting, testing/certification services, and professional development/continuing education workshops, seminars or classes.

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