

Work experience lifeline

If you need help with finding student work experience placements, have a talk with a Futureintech Facilitator.

As work experience week approaches many career advisors may be wondering how to make the best use of students' time. And it can sometimes be difficult to find companies that support students and are willing to donate time for work experience, especially in rural areas.

Futureintech has strong links with many technology, engineering and science industries and offers help to find work experience placements for students.

We have seven Facilitators working across the country who liaise with members of industry on a daily basis. Facilitators can recommend the company best suited for each student and organise introductions on their behalf.

Students and teachers are welcome to contact their local Futureintech Facilitator for advice at any time – see www.futureintech.org.nz for contact details.

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New-look Techlink site

The Techlink site is undergoing a radical face-lift, with new content of vital interest to all Technology teachers and educationalists being added virtually every week.

The Techlink website supports teachers in the planning and implementation of programmes in technology education by providing case studies of classroom and technological practice and examples for unit planning and assessment.

The website was established in 2003 through an IPENZ/TENZ partnership, with support from New Zealand Trade

and Enterprise. This year Techlink has also provided a home for the Ministry of Education's GIF Technology Education initiatives, including Beacon Practice, the source of a growing number of excellent case studies. Futureintech was actively involved in many of the case studies featured.

It's a must-visit: www.techlink.org.nz.

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The screenshot shows the Techlink website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contact us', 'Search', 'Glossary', 'Accessibility', and 'Subscribe'. Below this is a header with the Techlink logo and the tagline 'INVOLVE >> EVOLVE'. A breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home > Tech Education > Beacon Practice > Te Papa Souvenirs > Introduction...'. A main navigation menu includes 'Components of Practice', 'Case Studies', 'Career Profiles', 'Planning', 'GIF Tech Education', and 'Beacon Practice'. The 'Beacon Practice' section is expanded, showing a list of links: 'About', 'Phase 1 Schools', 'Phase 2 Schools', 'Case Studies' (with sub-links for 'Bright Ideas', 'Taranua Chocolates', and 'Te Papa Souvenirs'), 'Professional Support', and 'Contact us'. The 'Case Study: Te Papa Souvenirs' page is displayed, featuring an 'Introduction' section with background and delivery information. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Study BP601' section with links for 'Abstract', 'Introduction', 'Background', 'Pre-planning', 'Delivery', 'Outcomes', and 'What next?', along with a 'GALLERIES' section showing images of students working.

Viva Ambassadors!

Futureintech Ambassadors are industry professionals who help students and promote careers in technology, engineering and science. Across the country teachers and students are praising the creativity and professionalism of the Ambassadors who donate their time to share their specialist skills with their local community.



Craig Brown

Transmission Specialist
Meridian, Christchurch

Craig loves puzzles, which is just as well because he got one that had stumped student and teacher alike for weeks.

Craig was one of three Futureintech Ambassadors who visited Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti to help with their technology classes. All went smoothly until one particularly diligent student showed him her project. The student had designed and built her own video game controller but was having trouble with the interface between her computer and the control.

Craig began mentoring the student immediately and while they soon came up with a solution to the problem together, one question quickly led to another and soon the circuit design was being completely revamped.

Dr John Boereboom, Unlimited's Learning Advisor, said that the day was a total success. The Ambassadors were able to answer all of the student's questions and Dr Boereboom says that many students expressed an interest in pursuing

a career in industry after the class. The student Craig mentored is now planning to be an engineer and has already asked Craig to help her develop contacts in his field.



Bridget Doran

Roading Engineer
Maunsell, Hamilton

Bridget is always keen to volunteer when there are requests from schools in the Hamilton region. But her most impressive contribution so far has been the organisation of the

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Ambassador PD for teachers



Linda Salamoun

Electrical Engineer
Opus International Consultant



Ginny Moore

Food Technologist
Hubbards, Auckland

It's not only students who are benefiting from the Futureintech Ambassador scheme, but teachers as well. Having industry professionals in the classroom helps teachers understand the issues and approaches of their industries, and provides a valuable perspective to their teaching.

Futureintech Ambassadors Linda Salamoun and Ginny Moore have gone one step further by offering professional development sessions to up-skill teachers. In addition to working with students, they each ran a workshop for primary and intermediate school teachers covering electronics and food technology. The sessions were done in collaboration with Team Solutions.

Both workshops proved very popular with teachers and provided an excellent opportunity for education and industry professionals to network and make useful contacts. Programmes like this benefit everyone involved – teachers, industry professionals, and ultimately students. Futureintech looks forward to helping develop more workshops like it in the future.

Hamilton Girls' High Accelerant Camp (Engineering Day).

Bridget organised the day for the girls from start to finish. She opened the day with a presentation on her own work, and then invited colleagues from Maunsell to present to the students on the other fields of engineering.

The afternoon was spent visiting four different work sites, including the construction of the new Westfield Shopping Centre, to demonstrate the practical aspects of the job.

It was a day jam-packed with activities and variety, but it all went without a hitch.



Scott Abernethy

Senior Software Engineer
Stratex Networks, Wellington

A love of his work and a laid-back attitude has meant that Scott Abernethy is getting requests for return visits over a year after he first visited Wellington High School.

Scott has been helping Wellington High students with their computing projects since early last year.

Scott attributes his enthusiasm for the subject to his own work at Stratex.

He says he loves what he does and couldn't imagine a more rewarding career. It's this kind of passion that he brings to class whenever he returns to Wellington High.

Scott focuses most of his visits around Java programming, one of his many fields of expertise. His latest visit was to tutor students on the development of interactive tools for teachers (as class clients).

One student was so impressed by Scott's recommendations to improve the work on his project that he re-wrote most of his year's work to accommodate them.

The students are now developing their programs further before Scott returns in a few weeks to check on progress and help them take their work to the next level.

IPENZ Foundation Scholarships

If you have highly able students considering engineering at tertiary level, then make sure they apply for an IPENZ Foundation Scholarship.

Each year two \$5,000 IPENZ Foundation Scholarships are awarded to Year 12 & 13 students who have demonstrated an aptitude and passion for engineering and are intending to do tertiary studies in the field.

This year's recipients were Claire Oliver from Manawatu and Ellie Seaver from Taranaki.

"Engineering will allow me to extend my interests in science into practical applications," says Claire. "For me, I realised that the 'laboratory sciences' were never going to be a satisfying career option. I am far too interested in helping people."

Ellie always enjoyed mathematics and physics as well as practical problem solving. "Engineering provides endless challenges in these areas. There are so many opportunities for engineers," she says.

Applicants must be New Zealand citizens or permanent residents and who, in the year of the award, are enrolled to study towards an IPENZ-accredited engineering degree (see www.ipenz.org.nz/ipenz/careersed/accreditation). Entries close on 10 January, 2007.

To find out more, and for an application form visit the IPENZ Foundation website: www.foundation.org.nz or contact Susie McCutcheon, phone (04) 473 2029, email smccutcheon@ipenz.org.nz.



Bronwyn Hawker

Food Technologist
Frucor, Auckland

Bronwyn jumped at the chance to be an Ambassador when she heard where it was – she had spent five years at Macleans College and loved the fact that she could now be the one at the front of the class.

Bronwyn has returned to the College several times in the last two terms to give presentations on product development, sensory technology and what life is really like for a Food Technologist.

Teacher Annette Toon praised Bronwyn for her exciting class demonstrations and interesting Powerpoint presentations that held the classes enthralled.

Futureintechnews

Further facilitation for Auckland

Futureintech welcomes new Auckland Facilitator Rod Hare. Rod will start at the beginning of August and will work closely with Facilitators Angela Hart and Gay Watson to meet the increasing demand for Futureintech Ambassadors in Auckland schools.

Rod is a science teacher from Orewa College and has experience teaching at both the primary and secondary school level. Rod's background in science is a valuable asset and Futureintech intends to make the most of his skills.

Promoting careers in technology, engineering and science via Maori and Samoan caregivers

Teenagers get advice from a range of people about careers – peers, friends, teachers and careers advisors. But research shows that parents and caregivers are still by far the biggest influence – 80% of children want their caregivers to help them choose.

In response to the need for caregivers to be more informed, Futureintech published a booklet aimed at providing a context within which they could feel more confident about giving advice to their children, and profiles of people and their career pathways.

The booklet has proved so popular, we have now produced two bilingual booklets, one in Maori and English and one in Samoan and English.

Copies will be sent to your school during the coming month. We will



also distribute through our contacts at the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs as well as iwi contacts. To order more, contact Doug Buchanan, phone 04 473 2023, fax 04 474 8933, enquiries@futureintech.org.nz

www.futureintech.co.nz

Futureintech's website contains a wealth of information for students, parents, teachers and careers advisors. It has profiles of young people working in technology, engineering and science, and the companies they work for, along with information on different courses, careers and scholarships available.

Recognition at last for technology education

Congratulations from Futureintech to the many teachers and schools who have contributed to the lobbying process which now sees technology on the University Entry list of approved subjects.

Your hard work and professionalism

has significantly influenced this important and timely endorsement of the technology curriculum.

Further information can be found on the [NZQA web site](#), and is available in the latest issue of [t-news](#).

What is TENZ?

Technology Education New Zealand (TENZ) is IPENZ's newest Technical Interest Group. TENZ is a professional network established to promote and support technology education in New Zealand.

TENZ works to:

- foster the development of technology in the New Zealand curriculum
- develop and maintain national and international links between those working in technology education and the wider technological community
- support professional, curriculum and resource development in technology education
- encourage research in technology education
- organise a national technology education conference every two years

The TENZ council manages activities, including a biennial conference and a regular electronic newsletter [t-news](#), for over 500 members.

TENZ has a broad membership, including members outside of the teaching profession.

To find out more, visit the TENZ website www.tenz.org.nz.