



**Inclusive Engineering  
Consortium**  
[www.iec.org](http://www.iec.org)

Dear IEC Community,

With the new academic year comes a new beginning that ushers in new initiatives, expectations, and challenges. It then seems appropriate to include in this September mini-issue a letter that reminds us of the opportunities this newsletter presents for informing and engaging our community by serving as a platform for disseminating information between IEC members, and also as a conduit for sharing relevant news and collaboration opportunities. We envision that these fruitful exchanges of ideas will result in our effective functioning as that “super department” that would allow us to engage more effectively in innovative and/or large-scale initiatives and better tackle our common challenges.

Although our inaugural issue was distributed nine months ago, the IEC Exchange remains a quarterly publication. The long hiatus was due to the COVID-19 realities that, as we all are painfully aware of, have disrupted agendas, operations, and lives. We felt the need to reboot the process with the new academic year by re-introducing the newsletter through this short issue that will be followed by our first full-length issue at the end of October.

Despite its myriad disruptions and negative impacts, COVID-19 has demonstrated to us that with the right technologies/tools and our adequate engagement, we need not reside in the same buildings or even in the same cities to effectively operate our departments and conduct the business of education. These distributed efforts show us that our vision of acting as a “super department” is indeed feasible with our committed and continued collective engagement that we hope to express in part by sharing ideas, best practices, and opportunities through the *IEC Exchange*.

Since our exciting news and discussions of shared interests should not come at quarterly intervals, we have been exploring ways to keep ourselves informed and engaged between the newsletter’s issues. To that end, Weekly Notes from the president will be distributed, well ... weekly, so that those of us who have something to share will have an opportunity on a more regular basis. The newsletter will focus on spotlighting the activities of IEC departments and people, professional development topics and feature articles whose selection will be guided by our common interests ascertained through collective brainstorming.

Have a great academic year and stay safe.

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