



## BOSTON COLLEGE

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**HEWLETT PACKARD TECHNOLOGY GRANT AWARDED TO  
BOSTON COLLEGE LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
*\$68,000 Grant to Improve Student Achievement in Urban Ecology*

Chestnut Hill, MA (5-2-07) -- Boston College's Lynch School of Education (LSOE) was selected as one of 42 higher education institutions to receive a 2007 Hewlett Packard Technology for Teaching grant, designed to transform and improve learning in the classroom through innovative uses of technology.

LSOE will receive HP wireless equipment and a faculty stipend to support to improve student achievement, valued at more than \$68,000.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, these grant projects will impact more than 6,000 higher education students. Grant recipients will use HP wireless Tablet PC technology to enhance learning in engineering, math, science, computer science or business courses.

The Boston College project team, led by LSOE Assistant Professor Mike Barnett, is an interdisciplinary collaboration that includes LSOE Assistant Professor Kate McNeill, Biology Department Research Associate Professor Eric Strauss, Geology and Geophysics Department Associate Professor Alan Kafka and Urban Ecology Institute Director Charlie Lord.

The project leverages an existing infrastructure developed through funding from the National Science Foundation for the Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program. Student program participants will use the tablet personal computers to collect data on urban ecology issues, such as urban street trees, bird bioacoustics and urban biodiversity.

Boston Public School and LSOE students, for example, will use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and advanced computer modeling software to conduct scientific inquiry with data that they collect in their neighborhoods. The complexity of these investigations provide students with opportunities for deep learning in critical areas of science and technology, as identified in national and state standards.

The grant—which will impact nearly all pre-service elementary teachers in Lynch School of Education, approximately 1,000 high school students and 30 in-service teachers—will help meet two critical needs in the US.

First, the project team will be able to provide more in-depth scientific experiences for future and current teachers, which will enhance their ability to engage their own students in cutting-edge science. Second, the project team will be able to provide high school students—most from underrepresented populations in science and technology—much needed experience and practice in learning how to use emerging information technological tools.

In 2007, HP is awarding 172 K-12 public schools and two- and four-year colleges and universities in the US and Puerto Rico more than \$7 million in mobile technology, cash awards and professional development as part of its 2007 HP Technology for Teaching grant program.

Since 2004, HP has contributed a total of \$36 million to more than 650 schools worldwide through this grant program. During the past 20 years, HP has contributed more than \$1 billion in cash and equipment to schools, universities, community organizations and other nonprofit organizations around the world.

“HP empowers students and teachers to succeed through innovative uses of technology and training,” said Sidney Espinosa, HP Philanthropy Program director. “We invest in schools to increase educational attainment and contribute to the development of a skilled, diverse workforce in the future.”

More information about the 2007 HP Technology for Teaching program and grant recipients is available at [www.hp.com/go/hpteach](http://www.hp.com/go/hpteach).

More information about the Lynch School of Education is available at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/lsoe/>.