

**B E College Alumni Association of Canada  
(BECAAC)**

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October 10, 2006

**Mr. Soumya Souvik Hati**  
**General Secretary**  
**Undergraduate Students' Union**  
**Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur**

**Subject: Message from BECAAC on the occasion of your convention**  
**'FIFTH DIMENSION' on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2006**

Dear Mr. Hati,

On behalf of BECAAC representing all alumni in Canada, I wish to congratulate you for organizing a convention on the topic of upgrading our alma mater to an Institution of National Importance, Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology (IEST). The timing of your convention is very expedient.

BESUS is currently at a critical crossroad in its history of development. We have the opportunity to elevate it to its highest pinnacle of excellence. If it is lost, we will be relegated to a future of perpetual mediocrity. About 50 years ago, we lost the opportunity to convert BEC to IIT because of a ruling by the then W.B. Govt. not to accept the proposal. We all know now how IIT's have prospered to the level of world wide recognition. It will be truly regrettable if we miss this golden opportunity this time which may never come again.

The benefits of converting BESU to INI, IEST is numerous, some of which were listed in our joint appeal to WB CM. The conceptual model of the proposed IEST's will bring us much higher level of assured funding from the Central Govt. compared to State Govt. support. This will enable massive improvement of infrastructure, enrolment of the best students and faculty from across the country and around the world, a small student/teacher ratio, curriculum to match the best institutions of its kind, a research program which would draw international attention and will bestow a 'Brand Name' which everyone would covet. Questions may be raised about chances of local students getting admission in an INI, but it must be understood that competition is not local anymore, it has to be at least national if not global. This is the only way both the institution and the students will come up to world standard. A Central Govt. funded INI will better prepare the institution with the infrastructure and the faculty that will allow local students to get the training they need to compete globally.