$4 Million Software Gift for Iowa State

OPNET Technologies, a Bethesda, Maryland, software firm, recently donated more than $4 million in software, licenses, and upgrades to Iowa State University’s College of Business in Ames. Students will use the software, which includes licenses to OPNET’s IT Guru and Modeler products, to design and study communication networks, diagnose application performance problems, and plan for network growth and high availability. In addition, graduate students and faculty will use the software to conduct advanced telecommunications research, such as modeling wireless security systems and studying the impact of paperless environment installations.

Iowa State University is among a number of institutions that have received academic grants from OPNET. Other software recipients include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge; Stanford University in Oakland, California; the University of California at Berkeley; the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

The software gift from OPNET provides ISU’s telecommunications laboratory with critical software to keep its business students up-to-date with corporate technology, says Labh Hira, dean of ISU’s College of Business. “It sends a clear message that Iowa State is focused on providing a technology- and information-based business program.” Hira adds that this type of external support is vital in outfitting Iowa State’s new Gerdin Business Building with the latest technologies.

Two MIS associate professors, Tony Townsend and Brian Mennecke, have been working with OPNET Technologies for several months regarding the software acquisition. “Students will have the same computer tools used by IT professionals in Fortune 100 companies such as AT&T, MCI, Verizon, Accenture, Oracle, and NCR,” says Townsend.

OPNET’s gift to the College of Business was made through the Iowa State University Foundation. This gift includes licenses, future licenses, and future maintenance.