The renowned American Technical Education Association (ATEA) has just announced its selection of Louisville Tech’s Computer Graphic Design degree program as the winner of its 2009 Outstanding Technical Program award.

The purpose of the award is to recognize an outstanding technical program at a postsecondary technical education institution in the United States. Louisville Technical Institute was recognized for its state-of-the-art graphic design instruction as being both current and cutting edge.

According to criteria set by the ATEA, the winning program must be both exemplary and contributory to the nation’s workforce.

“The students and faculty in our Computer Graphic Design program have established themselves as outstanding graphic arts practitioners,” said David Winkler, Louisville Tech’s Executive Director.

Instructor Craig Niemann, a finalist for last year’s ATEA Outstanding Technical Teacher award, is chair of the award-winning department. (See Techniques, Vol. 2008, Issue 2, page 1).

“The ATEA national award makes the Computer Graphic Design Department shine even brighter,” according to Winkler.

Louisville Tech’s involvement with business and industry, matching instruction to current and future needs, is an essential element of the program’s success. The ATEA also reviewed the institute's innovative training strategies.

Note: See page 7 for Graphic Design and Dynamic Web Development Service Learning projects.

**We won! Louisville Tech’s Graphic Design Program judged nation’s best in 2009!**

**Employers were eager to hire at LTI’s recent Career Fair**

In these trying economic times, what could be better than a room filled with local employers eager to share information about their respective companies? That’s the sight that greeted Louisville Tech students and alumni who recently attended Graduated Employment Services (GES) fourth annual Career Fair.

Many new employers attended

Participants were delighted to find some employers, like Stonemark Granite and Tek Systems, ready to conduct one-on-one interviews in pre-reserved private rooms.

Joyce Mills of Stonemark found the Career Fair “very productive.” Joyce has a recent graduate Victoria Sukala as a direct result of the Fair. This was also a big thank you

Barbara Moore, GES Director, thanks everyone who participated in this year’s event, particularly for the professionalism displayed by students, graduates and alumni.

“Whether you are a new graduate or a member of our alumni, GES is ready to provide career assistance for those in need,” Mrs. Moore stated.

Louisville Tech’s graduates can register on the new alumni website, filled with a wealth of information geared to alumni. Just log on to: www.louisvilletech.com/alumni.

Barbara Rowland, Formerly of Kentstring, has launched her own business, instructors’ credentials, enrollment practices, the placement of graduates, and the knowledge and participation of the program’s advisory committee. Official presentation of the award will take place at the ATEA National Conference on Technical Education, to be held March 11-13, 2009 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The next issue of Techniques will have highlights from the award ceremony.

**Students benefit from great Service Learning experiences**

**A Message from David Winkler, Executive Director**

As long as I have been in education, I have heard “if you want to really learn something, tell me about it — and then let me do it myself.” That’s why at Louisville Tech there are plenty of lab classes, student projects, externship courses and skills competitions. Plus, employers look for job candidates with some experience in the job field. At Louisville Tech, Service Learning is the strategy that links classroom theory and workplace experience. Students can use their skills and knowledge in a situation with real-world need and limits, and at the same time, receive opportunities to give back to their community.

Each year students donate their special skills to help non-profit organizations. For example, The Greg Page Foundation (see below) wanted to develop a new Olympic boxing training facility that would encourage disadvantaged youth to grow as athletes and individuals and decided to work with LTI Interior Design students to plan the use of space in the facility. Interior Design students learned the Foundation’s mission, researched other training sites and laid out plans for a first-class training facility. What an accomplishment! Students took their learning into the real world of interior design business, and a wonderful organization is able to help young people beat the odds that are often against them. That is Service Learning.

Dress for Success provides professional clothing to disadvantaged women as a way of supporting their financial independence. It needed a strong website that would more effectively link Dress for Success with its network of people who could donate slightly-used clothing, and facilitate the distribution of clothing to those in need. Students in the Dynamic Web Development program took this project as a great way to practice and learn skills while making the lives of others just a little better.

This issue of Techniques contains articles about six recent Service Learning activities, highlighted in blue, which illustrate how Service Learning is a key to why LTI graduates stand out in their fields. Come join us, if you like to learn by doing, while helping others at the same time! It’s one of those win-win situations.

**Service Learning articles continue on page 2**