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The Promise of Interdisciplinary Design: Roundtable to Prepare for Interdisciplinary Workshops

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The proposal **Design as Creative Model for Technical Education:** The Development and Implementation of Interdisciplinary Studio Models-Graduated National Distribution Concept has been funded by the National Science Foundation. This project aims to transfer, through workshops to graduate students and faculty, architectural and design studio models for teaching engineering design in a way that effectively integrates technical, social/cultural, and aesthetic issues. The workshops will be open to applicants from other interested institutions and will begin in Summer 2004. At this roundtable we will begin to set the foundation for finding best practices of normative and cross-disciplinary design education; and develop models for dissemination and distribution to colleague institutions.

Four themes are relevant to contemporary engineering and design education and this proposal: cross-disciplinary partnerships, educational innovation, diversity, and the integration of technology into education. The beneficiaries are the faculty and graduate students who will teach these design studio courses and students who will take them. The end goal of this project is to integrate multidisciplinary design pedagogy into engineering and architectural education that will attract a more inclusive constituency and create design professionals with a broader foundation for addressing the complex problems of the 21st century.