

# UAHuntsville honors IDS SoCal Engineering for T&E training



Souzane Tacawy (left) of IDS Southern California receives the 2008 Excellence in Employee Development Award from Jo Ann Jones of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. [Michael Gail photo]

Integrated Defense Systems Southern California Engineering was honored by the University of Alabama Huntsville with a 2008 Excellence Award on July 10 in Seal Beach. The award recognizes IDS for its investment in employee education and spotlights Engineering's effort to bring test and evaluation engineering certificate courses to Boeing facilities in California.

As part of its responsibility to train and develop employees, IDS Test & Evaluation Engineering wanted to offer formal university courses to its diverse group of people who work on aircraft, space, combat systems and missile programs across the country. They also wanted as many as possible to benefit from an onsite classroom environment with interaction and knowledge-sharing with their peers.

They elected to build on the company's relationship with the UAHuntsville Division of Continuing Education, which had created certificate programs for systems engineering, radar, modeling and simulation, and test and evaluation.

"IDS Huntsville first developed the T&E Certificate Program with the University in 2003 and UAH online courses have been available to employees outside of Alabama" said Souzane Tacawy, SoCal T&E functional manager. "It is one of only two schools that offer a test and evaluation certificate. We are fortunate their faculty members were willing to work with us to tailor the curriculum and find a way to bring the courses here."

Twenty-five employees in the SoCal Region completed the first T&E certificate program held in Long Beach last year. The 2009 courses were completed in Huntington Beach July 11 and conducted through September in Palmdale. Next, the program will be expanded to other locations, and there are plans to add the four core courses that are currently offered, according to Tacawy.

"This has been a great collaboration and we appreciate the recognition we've received from the University of Alabama, Huntsville. They have made it possible for all our employees to get formal training and learn from each other about Boeing and other types of test activities. Our courses focus on application and real examples, which are great ways of sharing lessons learned and best practices," she said. "Based on this success, we are now looking at the development of a flight test certificate program."

In presenting the Excellence in Employee Development Award, Jo Ann Jones, UAHuntsville Director of Professional Development, said, "We are proud to salute Boeing IDS Southern California Engineering for its involvement in the employee development process and the priority executives have placed on supporting the test and evaluation and training pursuits of employees."

Four other organizations received 2008 Excellence in Employee Development Awards from UAHuntsville. They were Los Alamos National Laboratory, BP America Inc., US Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, and US Army Program Executive Office Missiles and Space.

For more information on the Test and Evaluation Certificate Program at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, visit [www.ConEd.UAH.edu](http://www.ConEd.UAH.edu) or phone 800.448.4035.



More than 20 employees in Southern California took part in the test and evaluation certificate courses held recently in Huntington Beach. The class is seen here with the UAHuntsville instructor David Gunther (center front). [Boeing photo]