

CONNECTICUT

POST

TUESDAY

December 4, 2007

Scholarships offered to future engineers

The Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program has a 20-year track record of introducing middle and high school students to science, math, technology and engineering.

Often, those suddenly inspired students don't end up in college, training for careers that carry high salaries. College tuition stands in the way.

The University of Bridgeport announced plans Monday to eliminate that barrier, providing \$12,000 annual scholarships to qualified CPEP graduates. Essentially, it would cut UB's

annual \$23,500 tuition and fees in half. The program begins this fall for up to 50 students.

Bruce Dixon, chief executive officer for CPEP, said the gift will provide opportunities for students who do what they need to do in high school by getting good grades. CPEP, a nonprofit organization, serves 800 students a year from 35 schools in 11 school districts. It offers after-school, weekend and summer programs.

Tarek Sobh, dean of the School of Engineering and a CPEP board member, expects many CPEP grads to apply for the scholarships.

Ignatius Bertone, a science teacher at Bassick High School, said his students benefit from the program. "They learn they like science," he said.

Marie Belle Minkue Ngoumou, 15, a Bassick junior and CPEP student, isn't sure where she wants to go to college. The potential of a \$12,000 scholarship would make her consider UB, she said.

— LINDA CONNER LAMBECK