

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian,

Texas State Technical College Waco (TSTC Waco) is one of eight partner colleges in the National Center for Optics and Photonics Education (OP-TEC). OP-TEC is funded by a National Science Foundation Advanced Technical Education (ATE) grant and is based in Waco, Texas. The purpose of OP-TEC is to increase the number of technicians trained in “photonics” to meet the industries increasing need for technically trained employees. A photonics technician will work with laser, optics and all of the electrical and mechanical components associated with these systems. Currently the need for these technicians is increasing.

The Laser Electro-Optics department has been training laser/photonics technicians for over 35 years. Currently the placement rate of graduates of our accredited associate degree program is above 95%. In 2005, TSTC Waco started the first Nanotechnology program for technicians in the country. Nanotechnology is heavily dependant on lasers and optics and TSTC Waco is the Nanotechnology partner in this center. In an effort to increase awareness of this growing field, TSTC Waco is offering a Summer Institute in photonics and its associated applications. The Institute’s curriculum will inform students about basic laser/optics principles as well as applications of these principles. Students will learn about the educational opportunities at TSTC Waco and employment opportunities in the industry. The Summer Institute is open to students (grades 7-12), teachers and counselors.

OP-TEC and TSTC Waco will house the participants and provide three full meals for the entire one week period of the Institute. The students will be housed on TSTC Waco campus in the student dorms. Working hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. An on-line schedule of detailed activities is provided at the website for the Summer Institute. Chaperones will be provided after hours to attend to the individual needs of the participants. Participants are responsible for their travel to and from the Institute.

A complete application packet, including the Parental Consent and Student Information Form, can be obtained by visiting [www.op-tec.org/tstc](http://www.op-tec.org/tstc) or [www.tstc.waco.edu](http://www.tstc.waco.edu) and clicking on the link to the TSTC Summer Institute program. Applications are accepted by mail, fax or online!

It is OP-TEC and TSTC Waco’s hope that your son or daughter can attend the summer institute and learn more about the photonics industry and employment opportunities. If you have any questions you please call me at 254-867-3173 or email me at [john.pedrotti@tstc.edu](mailto:john.pedrotti@tstc.edu). Thank you for considering the OP-TEC Summer Institute as a compliment to you child’s education.

Sincerely,



John O. Pedrotti  
Department Chair  
Laser Electro-Optics/Nanotechnology Department  
Texas State Technical College Waco