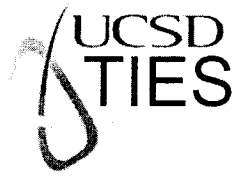


RIVER PARK HAS NEW "TIES" WITH UCSD



If you keep your eye in the restoration project as you drive by, you might just see a group of

students working hard on the site. These students are from our newest partners called Teams in Engineering Service (TIES) from the University of California San Diego.

The TIES program is a multi-disciplinary approach to educate tomorrow's technology leaders, conduct leading edge research, and transfer discoveries to ensure societal benefit. The program is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Jacobs School of Engineering, San Diego Supercomputer Center, the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology and AT&T. This is a new program for UCSD and Lakeside's River Park Conservancy was chosen out of numerous applicants to be one of the founding partners.

The TIES program started in fall of 2004 and the ideas generated thus far have captured our imagination. The students in the Lakeside TIES program are divided into three teams: remote monitoring, portable kiosks and conceptual designs for the Bridges of Lakeside.

Remote monitoring will allow the River Park to place a variety of instruments on the site that will measure such things as birdcalls or water temperature on a 15-minute time frame and then wirelessly send the information back to a computer in the office. We get real-time information that will reveal what kinds of animals are using the site.



Are there more hawks, more swallows, more endangered species visiting and breeding on the site? Is the water cleaner as it flows through the reeds and willows? Questions such as these will be answered easily.

As we restore the river, as we begin construction on trails or the nature and cultural center, or as the swallows return to

the river, we want to be able to tell people about it. The TIES students came up with an idea to place a portable computer display screen in a hardened, vandal and theft proof shell that can be moved from place to place. They call this the Infostream 3000. These devices can be placed in downtown Lakeside, or in front of the park or wherever people gather so they could see what is going on in the River Park and learn more about it. The computer can be programmed wirelessly so new information is transferred instantly to the Infostream 3000.

We have a dream, that one day hikers, riders and equestrians will be able to follow the river trail from El Monte Valley to the City of Santee and never have to cross a road or go under a bridge. The structural engineering students from the TIES program are working with artist James Hubbell to design several bridges that will be as beautiful as they are functional, so that using the trail becomes a delight to the eye as well as to the spirit.

The TIES program is a long-term project. These wonderful students will be with us for many years, helping us develop ideas and making sure that our River Park contains the best of both worlds, tying technology to nature and to the community of Lakeside.