The IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) has launched major strategic initiatives to connect with and to provide science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) educational programs to high school and undergraduate college students. The MTT-S and the 2014 International Microwave Symposium (IMS2014) Steering Committee fully recognize that the future of RF and microwave technology depends on stimulating the interest of the best and brightest from our younger generation in these exciting technologies. In support of these MTT-S strategic initiatives, IMS2014 is pleased to launch two unique programs that offer outreach to a new generation of younger students in high school and college. While maintaining a valuable tradition of programs for graduate student participants, IMS2014 will also create a unique professional experience for younger students. These programs serve an important educational mission as well as a long-term goal to attract a diverse pool of highly motivated students to the field of microwave and RF engineering. The two programs are IMS STEM and Project Connect.

**IMS2014 STEM**

The IMS2014 STEM program provides a day of fun and informational activities for local teenage precollege students interested in STEM careers in association with the practicing engineers in academia and industry, which includes the exhibitors. The “day-at-a-conference” experience is planned for Thursday, 5 June 2014 at and around the Tampa Bay Convention Center. In addition, the program will be open to the IMS2014 attendees’ high school children interested in STEM education. Therefore, additional activities are being planned with a day at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Tampa (Tuesday, 3 June 2014) and a fun day at Busch Gardens (Wednesday, 4 June 2014). The IMS2014 STEM program strives to:

- introduce students to microwave electronics (technology/careers/networking) through a STEM focused “day at a conference” experience
- integrate university/industry educational engagement with technical speakers, hands-on activities,
informational tables, and exhibition tour
• create an opportunity for quality interaction between potential future engineers and scientists and practicing engineers in the industry in an engaging setting of an international engineering event.

The IMS2014 STEM day will open with an introductory talk on microwave technology and the IMS conference in particular. Small groups of students will be led by young engineer volunteers and adult mentors through the conference exhibition. Activities will include a technology scavenger hunt on the trade show floor, panel sessions on STEM careers, and hands-on experimental activities. IMS2014 STEM day will conclude with a talk from an inspirational speaker.

For more information and to register for the program, please see http://www.ims2014.org/stem.

Project Connect
Project Connect will bring an exceptional group of undergraduate juniors and seniors to the IEEE conference on a travel grant. Approximately 20 students from underrepresented groups will be selected based on their academic credentials and career goals through a competitive application process.

The program is designed to create an opportunity for students to interact with practicing engineers, to learn about the exciting new technologies being developed today, and to introduce students to the variety of careers in the area of microwave engineering.

The program will host students at the IMS conference for three days. Specific agenda plans include
• IMS Connect-focused panel sessions where speakers from industry and academia will share their experiences in microwave engineering
• a graduate-student-led panel session for IMS Connect participants to learn about the highs and lows of transitioning from undergraduate life to working as a graduate research assistant
• Connect Monopoly, the vehicle that students will use to explore the exciting networking, educational, and industrial experiences of IMS2014
• IMS Connect participants sharing their IMS2014 experience with a “Through My Eyes” multimedia presentation at the program wrap-up meeting.

For more information and to register for the program, please see http://www.ims2014.org/students/project-connect.