

# The Future is N.E.A.R. Program Wins Grant

NPSD Educational Foundation

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**Lansdale, Pennsylvania—December 5, 2007—**[The Future is N.E.A.R.](#) (Nanotechnology Education And Research) program was awarded a \$596.00 grant by the North Penn School District Educational Foundation. The proposal: *Utilizing Viscometry to Identify Properties of Electrospun Polymeric Solutions* will offer another variable to the students to aid in their nanotechnology research.

The students are currently preparing polymer solutions which are necessary for the creation of ultrafine nanofibers. [ $< 250$  nanometers in diameter] The students are responsible for designing and performing their own research experiments to identify how their established design variables affect the diameter, surface topography and uniformity of their electrospun polymer nanofibers. One important factor that the students will now be able to study is the ability to research the affect that the viscosity of the polymer solution has upon the resulting nanofibers they create. From the funding of this grant, the students will gain valuable data to help them create a mathematical model for predicting fiber characteristics from the electrospinning process.

This is the sixth grant that the N.E.A.R. program has been awarded. Below is a timeline of awards won by the program:

## Grant / Funding Awards:

December 2007	North Penn Education Foundation	\$596.00
March 2006	Toyota	\$10,000.00
March 2006	North Penn Education Foundation	\$650.00
September 2005	ING Financial	\$2,000.00
July 2005	Dominion	\$4,500.00
June 2005	Toshiba	\$4,900.00

## About The Future is N.E.A.R.

The Future is N.E.A.R. program (Nanotechnology Education And Research) is the only high school program of its kind in the world to teach engineering and nanotechnology research through a polymer nanofiber production process known as electrospinning to high school students.

The program offers the students of North Penn High School's Engineering Academy an opportunity to gain 21st century skills that will help prepare them to become successful and highly marketable leaders in the new, technological global society. The program introduces the fundamentals of nanotechnology, engineering research, and higher level thinking and application of knowledge to high school students while cultivating their interest in engineering, problem solving and life-long learning.

To read more about nanotechnology, the research the students are performing or if you have any questions, please visit the website at:

<http://www.thefutureisnear.org>

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