

# Integrated Approach to Teaching Circuits and Electronics

Brian Hayt

Global Academic Product Marketing Manger

*brian.hayt@ni.com*

# What are the Engineering Challenges ECE Students Will Soon Face?

IEEE Spectrum

---

2020 will be the year when  
5G Goes from Theory to Reality

---

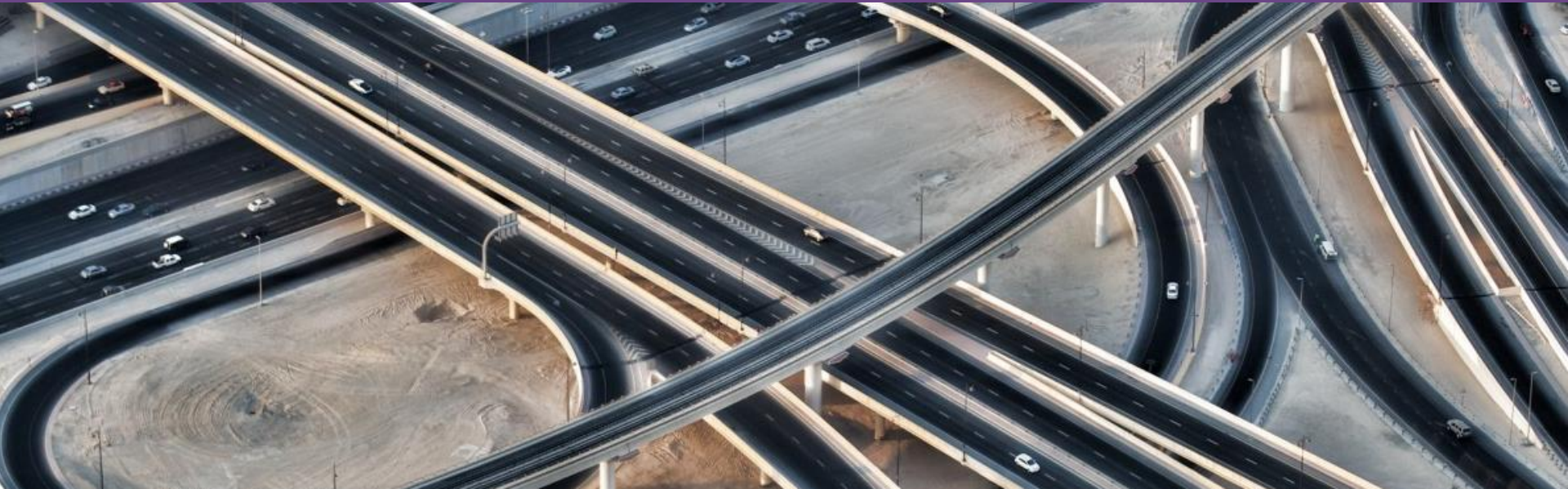


MIT Technology Review

---

2021 May Be the Year of the  
Fully Autonomous Car

---





## National Renewable Energy Laboratory

---

80% of US Electricity Generation from  
Renewable Energy Resources by 2050

---



# Challenges in Circuits & Electronics Education

- Developing engineers ready for increasingly complex systems
- Difficulty in building engaging and exciting experiences to retain students
- Limited time in classroom to learn basic topics; barrier to complex projects
- Education research is changing the recommended teaching methods

# Research Findings: Engineering Lab of the Future

Educators will need to...

1. Rapidly teach **multi-disciplinary**, complex and advanced new topics
2. Build a **future-ready** laboratory with an increased focus on project-based learning
3. Integrate learning into new trends such as the **flipped and studio classroom**
4. Address need of teaching new application areas (**mechatronics, energy, power**)
5. Enable students to take measurements on their **personal computing devices** (BYOD)
6. Integrate accreditation, assessment and learning management systems (LMS)
7. Build **industrial relevance** into the education process

# NI Partnership Models for Academic Institutions



Enhance Student  
Retention &  
Engagement through  
Curriculum Change



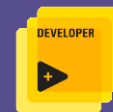
Collaborate to  
Increase Research  
Funding



Deliver Student  
Engagement &  
Employment



Support Global  
Societal Impact



Increase Relevancy to  
Industry with Center  
of Excellence and  
Certification





First engineering school in the south, 1819  
#2 public university in the United States  
2,700 undergraduate engineering students





## Fundamentals I Summing Amplifier Project

Linear Circuits  
+  
DC and AC State Analysis  
+  
Frequency and  
Time Domain

## Fundamentals II Audio Visualizer

Analysis and Measurement  
of Circuits  
+  
Nonlinear Devices  
+  
Practical Electronics Circuits

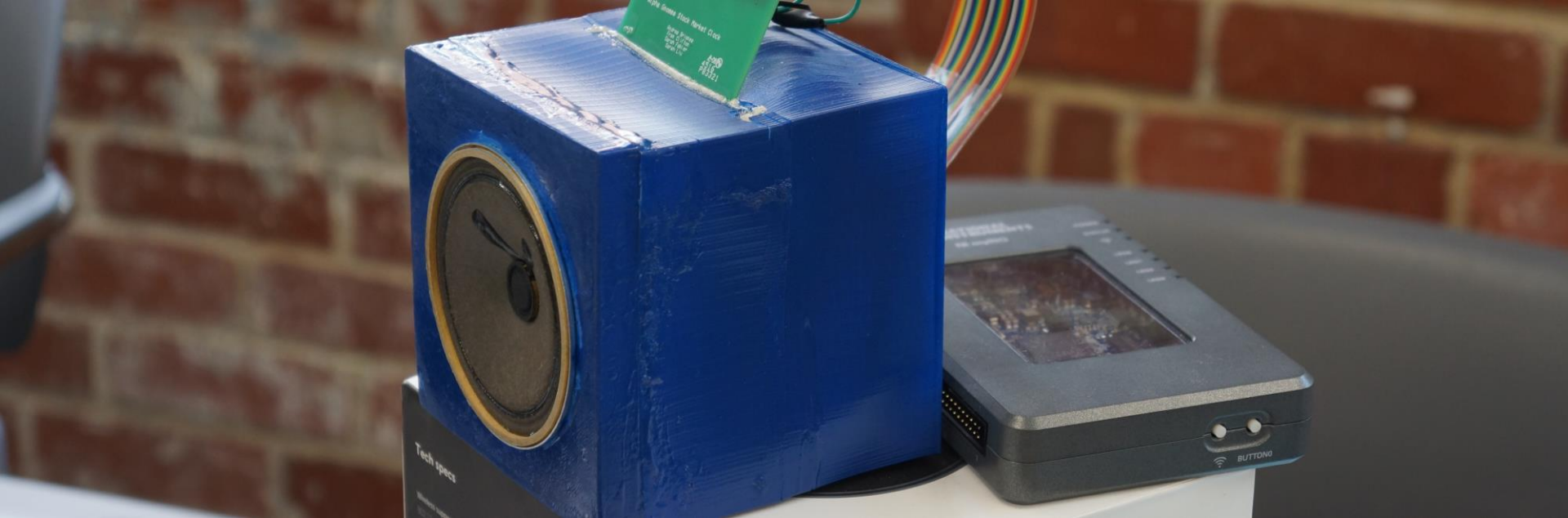
## Fundamentals III EKG Project

Analysis of Signals  
and Systems  
+  
Communications and  
Signal Processing  
+  
Controls and Feedback

Multisim and VirtualBench

“Students need to get their hands on hardware **from day 1** to truly translate theory to understanding.”

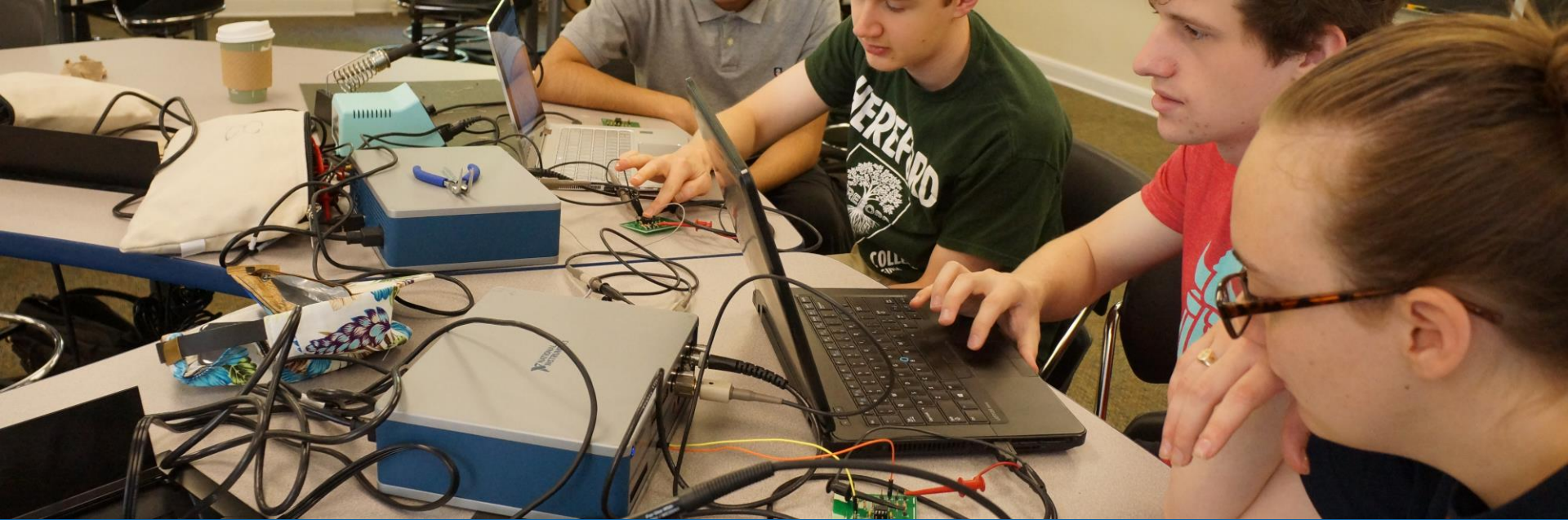
-Harry Powell, Associate Director of ECE Department



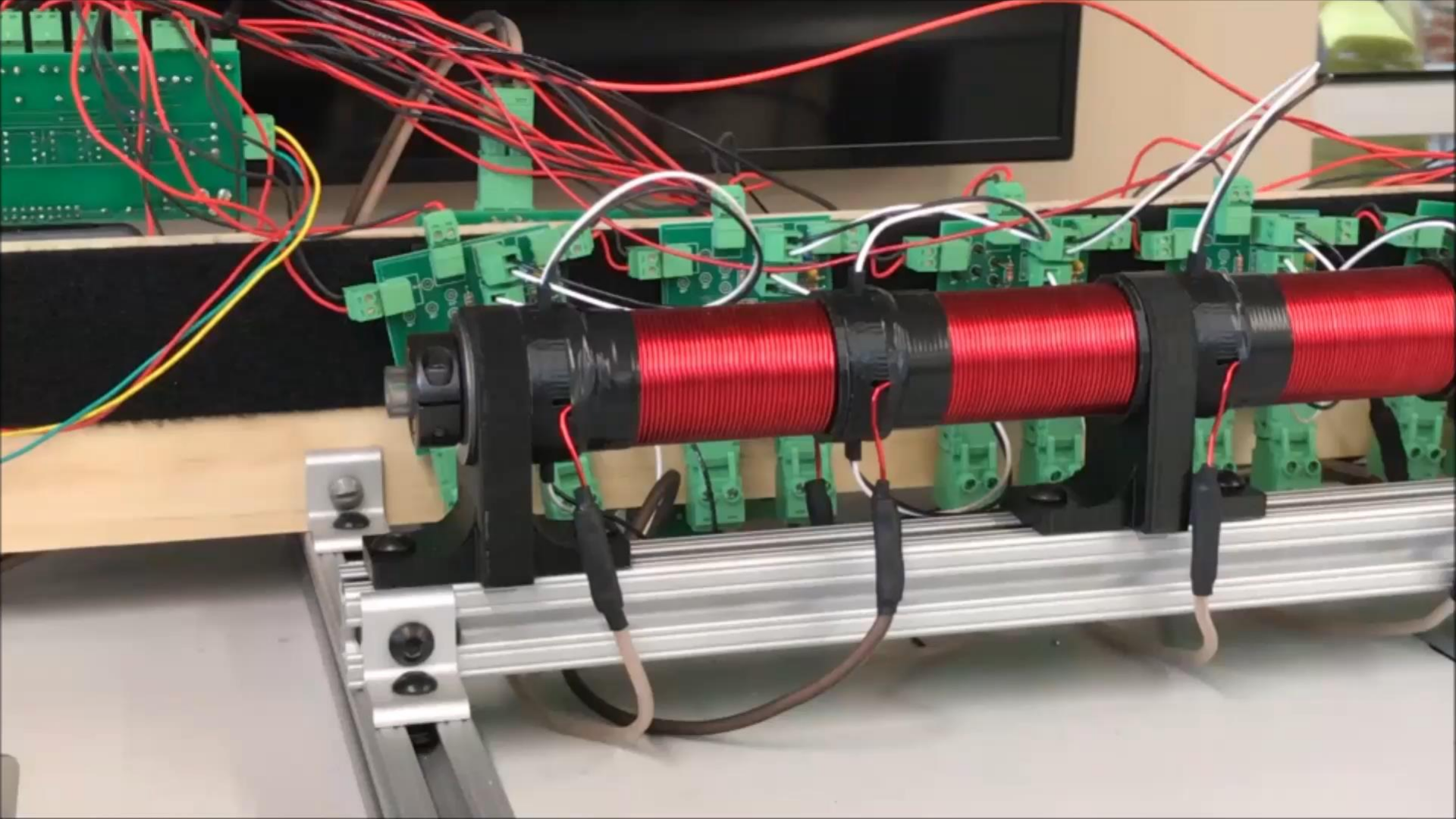
The quality of the senior design projects has seen **remarkable growth**.

Each project integrates everything learned in Fundamentals with Embedded Control.





- Female to male ratio improved by 120%
- 15% more students pass concept inventory test
- 91% of students claim hands-on exercises helped them better understand theory







The Electrical Engineering Department's National Ranking Has  
**IMPROVED BY 16 POSITIONS**



# Power Electronics

Developing Engineers for the Fast Approaching Future

# Path to Engineering System Design Success in ECE

