Examining MIT's role in Massachusetts industry

(Continued from page 5) would be a giant step closer to meeting the increased demand for engineers. There is another, more relevant measure of our contribution to engineering talent in Massachusetts. Overall, the data show that although only 10 percent of our entering undergraduate classes come from Massachusetts, much higher percentage of our degree recipients come from Massachusetts. For example, MIT alumni records show that about one-quarter of the individuals who received bachelor's or master's degrees in engineering in the last 25 years now live in the Commonwealth. The MIT Career Planning and Placement Office, which tracks the initial employment of new graduates, who make use of its facilities, reports that during the past few years, an average of 40 percent of degree recipients at all levels in electrical engineering and computer science who entered the job market after initial employment with Massachusetts-based companies. So it is clear that MIT is an important "concentrate" of engineering talent. Many young people come here from other parts of the nation to study, and stay here afterwards in Massachusetts. I remain hopeful that MIT's strengths will continue to play an important role in attracting talented students to Massachusetts — and in preparing exercising a favorable effect on the "balance of trade" with respect to the local supply of engineers. As I have indicated, MIT has traditionally had close and mutually supportive relationships with industry. Let me summarize the principal modes of interaction at the present time.

First, the several departments in the School of Engineering participate in a number of cooperative educational programs with industry. For the School as a whole, about 15 percent of the undergraduates participate in these work-study programs, which lead to a simultaneous bachelor's and master's degrees with a thesis done on industry. In the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, the cooperative program has operated since 1958 and currently involves 230 undergraduate and graduate students. While there are practical limits to the scope of work-study programs that can be supported by MIT — particularly limits on the amount of faculty time that can be used to oversee students in work assignments and during in-plant thesis research — we are actively seeking new mechanisms to extend our efforts.

Second, 260 companies, in the US and abroad, participate in MIT's Industrial Liaison and Associates Programs, which provide member companies access to research resources at MIT and offer a means of exchanging information. These programs are one of the ways in which technical developments at MIT are transferred to industry for commercial application, and the work of the Institute is coupled to the solution of societal problems.

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