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the success of our programs," she said. Smith praised Jackson for strengthening OME's programs during her tenure. "Under her leadership, the tutoring services of OME have experienced exceptional growth in quality and in the number of students served," he said. Jackson is proud of the expanded tutoring program and the better-equipped Tutoring Services Room.

"We have taken tutorial services from a little over 200 hours a semester to over 1,650 hours a semester," Jackson said. In addition, the 190 upperclassmen and graduate students who work as tutors and the students who utilize the services now include people from all ethnic groups, she said.

Another OME-sponsored project is Program Excel, a six-credit freshman seminar which provides formal study groups and "takes students beyond the classroom," Jackson said.

Excel started in fall 1989, and participation has increased from 30 to 70 students, she said. Students from Excel tend to do better in their math and science courses than they expected to do, Jackson said.

Project Interphase is another OME project. This pre-freshman summer program is now taking more students, and "Interphasers' performance in the fall semester has been reaching an all-time high," Jackson said.

Good relations with industry
Jackson's work with the Industrial Advisory Council on Minority Education has increased financial support and the number of internships available to minorities, according to Jackson.

"I especially note the strength of relations she has built with corporations nationwide to gather ideas, financial support, and opportunities for MIT students," Vest said.

Jackson said that when she started, only about 15 students were getting summer assignments in Fortune 500 companies through the mentorship program. Now, over 30 get jobs through the program, she said. "We have multiplied not only the participation, but also academic performance - I feel proud," Jackson said.

The OME has "achieved faculty involvement as it has never happened before," Jackson said. She believes that the success of the OME's programs has "brought the office to a position where it commands the respect that any academic unit deserves."

Finding a replacement
Smith praised Jackson for an "appropriate chair for this very important committee" to choose a new OME director. Once the chair is named, both the chair and Smith will determine who should be on the committee and the timeline for the search.

Smith also plans to "significantly" involve students during the search process.

"Whoever follows me will have a good base to build on and a dedicated staff to work with," Jackson said. "I am extremely pleased that she has decided to undertake doctoral studies at Harvard," Vest said. "Fortunately, we will be keeping in close touch with her during this period of concentrated studies."