

Dear Members of the Class of 2007:

Hello, and welcome once again to the Harvard Graduate School of Education ... to the program in Technology, Innovation, and Education ... and to TIE's *Foundations* curriculum.

OK, we know you've already received several "welcome"s from HGSE – and, confidentially, you're going to receive countless more during Orientation Week in September.

But this one is different ... because our welcome involves *work!*

Your predecessors, TIE students over the past several years, have asked for a little help in getting up to speed at HGSE: help in identifying some of the fundamental background to the graduate study of education, and help in getting to know and learn from fellow students in the TIE program.

So TIE faculty members collaborated to design this *Foundations* summer experience. It's not a full course, it's an appetizer – and we hope you will find it a useful and stimulating prologue to your studies at Harvard.

### **An overview of the *Foundations* curriculum**

This experience is intended to introduce you to a few key ideas in learning theory, under three broad headings: the nature of learning, learning communities, and learning and technology. To emphasize social and historical contexts, we've included a fourth chapter about visions and misgivings.

Each of these four themes unfolds in a similar way: We ask you to view an introduction, and then read some excerpts from key sources. The video introductions, presented by TIE faculty members, are not lectures or comprehensive guides. They are brief prefaces – each less than ten minutes long – providing personal perspectives on the significance of these fundamental ideas in our practice of teaching and scholarship.

The introductory perspectives, and the readings themselves, are all collected on a CD-ROM we are producing for you. We will put your CD in the mail at the end of the first week in July.

***We will send the CD to the mailing address you currently have on file in the HGSE Admissions Office. If you plan to be at a different location during the week of July 10 - July 14, please send your alternate address – as soon as possible – via e-mail to Kristen DeAmicis ([deamickr@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:deamickr@gse.harvard.edu)).***

If you will be in Cambridge this month – looking for a place to live, for example :) – you may prefer to pick up your copy of the *Foundations* CD from the TIE Office. Please let Kristen know if you plan to do this.

The *Foundations* summer program also includes a Web site, where we invite you to introduce yourself and to discover the amazing resource that your fellow students represent. We will let you know when the site becomes available – around the end of July – and send instructions for submitting your introduction. (But don't wait to start hunting up your favorite digital self-portrait!)

As we said, the *Foundations* curriculum is not a course, so you won't receive a grade or course credit. However, completing the readings and participating in the online exchange this summer will help you make the most of the TIE opportunity.

We eagerly look forward to meeting you in person in September. Meanwhile, we hope these warm-up exercises will help you prepare for an exciting and fulfilling intellectual and social experience here at HGSE.

Best regards,

Joe Blatt  
for the TIE Program