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07 June 2021

Sub: Announcing AICTE's Leadership in Teaching Excellence (LITE) Programme

Dear Sir/Madam,

Covid-19 continues to be a challenging crisis and an opportunity at the same time. In Jan 2021, AICTE announced a joint national call¹ with industry partners for raising an elite national student cadre of full stack developers who can contribute to open-source software that power digital war rooms² that are used by the National Health Mission and Department of Health, Govt of Kerala.

50,482 students from 2734 institutions across all 35 states and UT's responded to AICTE's call from which only 24 students qualified and were selected. These students underwent a 10 week intensive programme in a curriculum designed by leaders of Indian software industry.

While 18 of those students are now in the third month of a six month internship programme and are contributing to open-source software, we feel that many of our students should also be skilled to participate in such digital transformation initiatives.

Given the backdrop of a global demand for highly skilled software engineers due to the accelerated digital transformation, our students stand a very high chance of receiving high-quality employment offers post internships.

Anticipating both the need to strengthen the elite National Engineering Leadership Cadre of student software engineers and the NEP 2020 goal to bring modern software engineering knowledge through proven online teaching-learning methods to a larger cross section of institutions and faculty, AICTE is launching the **Leadership in Teaching Excellence (LITE) Programme**.

50 Universities/AICTE Affiliated Engineering Colleges would be selected from across the nation along with one computer science faculty from each institution to undergo a continuous professional development programme of 50-hours spread over a year. The training for faculty is designed such that they would be able to lead the introduction of 20 **Credit Minors in Web**

¹ <https://fullstack.pupilfirst.org/>

² <https://coronasafe.network/>

Development to students from Academic Year 2021-22 and mainstream industry knowledge into classrooms. Faculty training would precede student training and the minor degree would open up pathways for students from all academic disciplines to gain access to this knowledge.

We intend to upgrade selected institutions as **AICTE Brand Ambassadors of Change** and *highlight selected institutions, its leadership, faculty and students* as change agents who are implementing proven online teaching-learning methods that are aligned with NEP 2020.

Over the next few years, AICTE intends to bring modern computer engineering knowledge to 24 million children, starting with schools. In accordance with NEP 2020, we aim to create new pathways for direct admissions for the top school students from these programmes to academic institutions who are part of the LITE programme. This shall enable LITE institutions to have access to a higher quality of admissions pipeline and thereby enable students to move beyond highly paying employment opportunities into more challenging domains of entrepreneurship and research at the institute itself.

At this time of a national crisis, AICTE is opening a new opportunity for Universities and affiliated institutions to join this strong government-led industry-academia alliance through the national educational alliance for technology programme of Ministry of Education, Government of India and implemented by AICTE's industry partner Pupilfirst.org.

Interested institutions may apply through the online portal <https://lite.pupilfirst.org/> till June 15, 2021. The list of selected institutes and faculty shall be announced by AICTE on June 18, 2021.

For any clarifications on the programme, you may contact Col. B Venkat, Director (FDP), AICTE via email director.fdc@aicte-india.org

Yours Sincerely,


Prof MP Poonia

Vice Chancellors, Universities
Head of Institutions of AICTE Affiliated Colleges