



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CONTACT: Zoubeida Ounaies (zxo100@psu.edu)

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION DAYS IN MONASTIR, TUNISIA JULY 15-18, 2012

This four-day workshop, to be held at the Palais des Sciences in Monastir, will bring together engineering and science students, faculty, business leaders, and experts from the United States, Tunisia, and Morocco to discuss entrepreneurship and economic development as well as the innovation, transfer, and commercialization of technology. The first two days of the workshop will combine keynote lectures. testimonials, roundtable discussions, and hands-on interactive sessions. Participation during the first two days is expected to attract about 300 participants, most of whom will be engineering students and faculty from Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya. The final two days of the workshop will feature lectures and short courses on entrepreneurship and related training and will culminate in design and business competitions. In addition, three workshops will take place throughout the four days on the following topics: Entrepreneurship, Engineering Education, and Effects of Climate Change on Tunisia's Water Resources. Participation during the final two days will be limited to a select group of engineering students and early-career faculty from Tunisia and Morocco. Students must pre-register for the event at http://days.nateg.org, but once selected, their participation is free.

This event is organized by the US-Tunisia-Morocco Partnership (USTM) for the Promotion of Technology Innovation and Commercialization Strategies in Engineering Research and Education project, in partnership with the North American Tunisian Engineers Group (NATEG). The USTM partnership seeks to (1) shape a new type of Tunisian and Moroccan engineer who possesses entrepreneurial skills, knowledge of new product development processes, and unique perspectives on and connections to the private sector and (2) provide a venue to foster connections and build mutual understandings between universities and the private sector. USTM is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) and is implemented by the Pennsylvania State University. Other key sponsors and partners include the Tunisian American Young Professionals (TAYP), the Ecole Poletychnique de Tunisia (EPT), Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakesh, the National Science Foundation International Institute for Multifunctional Materials for Energy Conversion (IIMEC), and SolidWorks.

###

For further information about USTM, visit <u>http://www.engr.psu.edu/ustm/</u>.

NATEG, a non-profit, apolitical, non-governmental organization, was founded in 2011 by a group of Tunisian engineers and engineering students residing in North America. For more information about NATEG, visit <u>http://www.nateg.org/</u>.