Software engineering educators face increasing challenges as the practice of software engineering continues to grow more complex. They must cover an increasing number of topics in a fixed time-period (such as a four-year degree program). Issues like security, reliability and usability are more important than ever. Employers want graduates who have development experience in complex architectures, such as embedded systems or distributed Web-based systems. Educators have always been challenged by how best to introduce software process-related issues, but now they must also choose among a growing number of different approaches to software process (such as PSP, TSP, agile methods).

After graduation, professional software engineers must also maintain their knowledge and skill sets to face the rapidly growing complexity of the field. Both corporate training organizations and universities must respond effectively to help professionals continue their education in order to maintain an effective work force.

Many educators are successfully facing these educational challenges. We welcome submissions that address topics related to how universities and professional organizations are meeting these challenges. We seek participants whose presentations will contribute to a set of "best educational practices" that have been implemented and evaluated for effectiveness. These best practices will assist other educators who seek effective and innovative ways to respond to the challenges facing them.

The following list of topics (which is not inclusive) address this theme:

- Teaching principles and skills needed to produce secure software systems.
- Developing students’ understanding of and commitment to software reliability.
- Teaching usability and human factors in computer science and software engineering programs.
- Addressing more complex system architectures, such as distributed Web-based systems.
• Current (or contemporary) software development processes and how best to teach them.
• What students should learn about professionalism, ethics, and social issues.
• Best practices for software engineering education both in computer science programs.
  and in dedicated software engineering degree programs.
• Assessing and evaluating the quality of student learning and course or program success.
• Needs for life-long learning for software engineering professionals.
• The effects of curricula guidelines, accreditation, certification and licensure on
  educational programs and practices.

Submissions:

You are invited to submit research papers or experience reports in the above and other areas of
software engineering education and training. Submissions deadlines and other important dates
are listed below. In addition, we also solicit proposals for workshops, panel discussions and
tutorials.

• The conference will include 90 minute and half-day workshops designed to provide a
  forum for a group of workshop participants to exchange experiences and opinions on
  topics related to the conference theme. Proposals for workshops should be submitted by
  August 4, and information on accepted workshops will be posted on the conference Web
  site by August 18. Conference attendees who wish to participate in a workshop posted
  on the Web site should submit a position paper by the September 8 deadline.

• Panel sessions should include short position statements by a set of panelists followed by
  a debate or discussion among panelists and the audience. You are invited to submit
  panel topics where such an interactive discussion session will be interesting and useful
  to the community. Please submit panel proposals to the panel chair by September 8.

Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

Information on the conference Web site will describe procedures for submitting proposals, as
well as submission format. This information will be available by April 15, 2003.

Important Dates:

• Submission deadline for workshop proposals: Monday, August 4, 2003
• Publication of accepted workshops: Monday, August 18, 2003
• Submission deadline for papers, tutorials, panels, and workshop position papers:
  Monday, September 8, 2003
• Notification of acceptance: Monday, November 3, 2003
• Camera-ready copies due: Monday, December 1, 2003

Conference Chair:    Thomas Horton, University of Virginia, USA (horton@virginia.edu)
Program Chair:       Ann Sobel, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, USA (sobelae@muohio.edu)