



The visit of the U.S. Ambassador to the Technical University in Košice

In early November, U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick visited the Technical University in Košice and the specialized Computer Networks Laboratory there which is part of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics. Ambassador Sedgwick wanted to learn more about the work of the Technical University and especially the Computer Networks Laboratory which is pioneering a number of innovative programs to better prepare future IT professionals both in Slovakia and beyond.

In visiting the Technical University and the Computer Networks Laboratory, Ambassador Sedgwick continued a tradition of visits to the lab begun by previous U.S. Ambassadors to Slovakia.

At the laboratory, which has served as a successful and well know training center for network technology for more than 12 years, Ambassador Sedgwick met with both faculty and students who explained the wide variety of projects in which they are involved. An especially interesting program that is conducted at the laboratory is the Cisco Networking Academy program which focuses on providing general IT and networking technology education programs for universities and

high schools students. The program was developed by Cisco Systems and has been provided to thousands students by a variety of different institutions of higher education.

The Technical University in Košice is a leader in implementation of new ICT and innovative methods into the educational process in Slovakia. This university, as one of the first universities in the Europe, has in July 2010 presented its TelePresence room and started its cooperation with National Lambda Rail (NLR), US research network, by connecting more than 170 US Telepresence rooms at universities and educational institutions with TUKE.

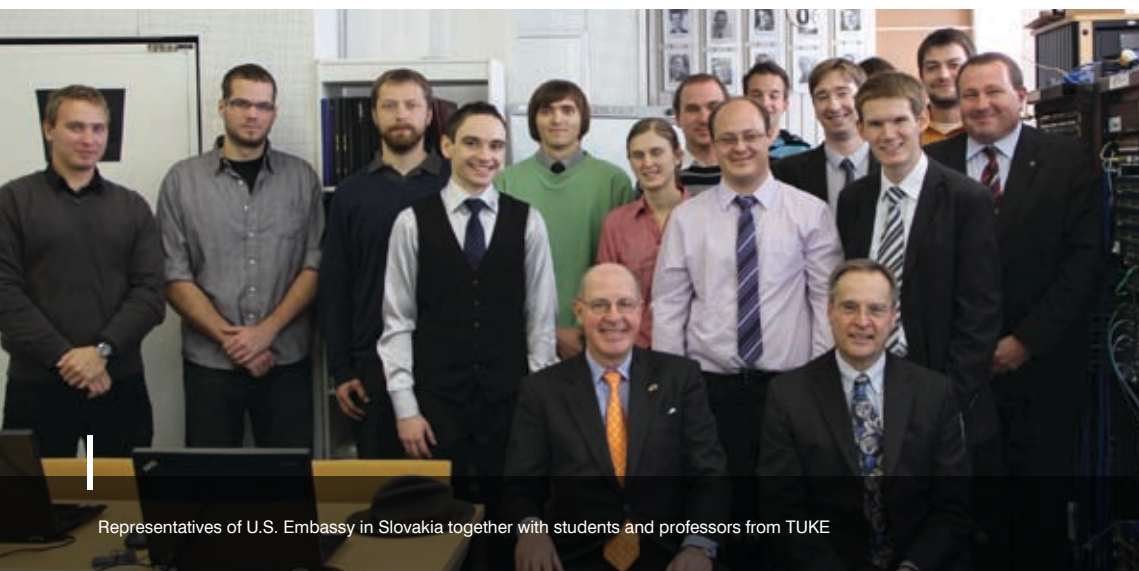
Among the Networking Academy programs delivered by the Technical University in Košice is one conducted for the Paradise Valley Unified School District (K-12) in Phoenix, Arizona. The Computer Networks Laboratory in Košice accomplishes this long distance learning through the use of innovative Cisco TelePresence technology that enables a virtual round table at which teachers and students can interact in real time. Feedback from the U.S. participants in the TelePresence course has been very positive and The Technical University in Košice plans to expand their TelePresence offerings to other countries.

Ambassador Sedgwick praised the faculty and students at the Computer Networks Laboratory for their creativity and responsiveness in meeting the educational needs of IT companies operating in the area and said that he would visit the lab again in the future to see their latest innovations. He concluded his visit with these words: "The Technical University in Košice plays an extremely important role in the Slovak economy because it focuses on educating students in the areas that represent the greatest promise for Slovakia. The University's location in Košice is an advantage for eastern Slovakia which suffers from high unemployment."



Discussion of the U.S. Ambassador with professors and students of the Computer Network Laboratory

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Representatives of U.S. Embassy in Slovakia together with students and professors from TUKE