Developing Software Engineering as a Profession

Today's world could not function as it does without software. Each time we fly, get money from an ATM or make a phone call, we rely on software. As software becomes an integral part of everything we do, it becomes more important to ensure that quality software systems are developed by competent software engineers.

The IEEE Computer Society has long been involved in the software engineering profession. The Society began publishing *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering* in 1972 and formed a committee to develop software engineering standards in 1976. *IEEE Software* was launched in 1984.

On this CD-ROM, the IEEE Computer Society presents its efforts to establish a true profession of software engineering. The Society has been working to define the knowledge that is important to a competent software engineer. *The Guide to the Software Engineering Body of Knowledge*, *Trial Version*, included on this disk, represents a broad consensus regarding the contents of the profession.

The reader will find information on the Certified Software Development Professional (CSDP) program, the Society's certification program for mid-level software engineers. The Society, recognizing the importance of continuing education and the measurement of knowledge and technical competence, created CSDP to help define and establish professional standards throughout the field of software engineering.

The *Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice*, jointly developed with ACM is included here because it documents software engineers' ethical and professional responsibilities and obligations. The Code was completed in 1998 and has been adopted by numerous corporations and organizations.

Also included on this disk are several articles reprinted from *IEEE Software,* which discuss various aspects of software engineering as a profession, and information on how you can become involved in software engineering technical activities.

The Society is currently partnering with ACM to define a new model curriculum for software engineering, and details about the curriculum will be added when available.

I hope you find this collection informative and useful in your pursuit of professional excellence.

Leonard L. Tripp
Chair, IEEE Computer Society Professional Practices Committee
1999 IEEE Computer Society President