

A meeting of Iowa community college information technology instructors was held December 6, 2009, at the ISEAGE facility in the Iowa State University Research Park. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a new Engineering Technology degree under development in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Iowa State University and to gather input from those instructors. Seven community colleges were represented. In attendance were

Dave Aust, Iowa Valley
Drew Gocken, DMACC
Dava James, Iowa Valley
John Magill, Iowa Western
Marc Matthes, Iowa Central
Mary Mosiman, North Iowa Area CC
Keith Price, Western Iowa Tech
Greg Reimer, Iowa Lakes
Brian Smith, Western Iowa Tech
Loyal Winborn, Southwestern

After introductions of all in attendance, Doug Jacobson, University Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, presented a draft version of the Engineering Tech degree as envisioned by the staff at ISU. ABET accreditation was also discussed. The proposed degree would be an ABET accredited Engineering Technology program which could have the name of Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technology or Information Engineering Technology. The primary focus is for students who are not destined for the Electrical and Computer Engineering program at ISU and for those who transfer with a degree from a community college in information technology. A discussion ensued about whether this would include AAS degrees or not. The Engineering Technology degree is a direct response to the desire presented by Iowa community college presidents and top academic officers at the ISU Community College Summit to find a path for these two year degrees to transfer. So, with that in mind, the program will work to matriculate these degrees. Additionally, there will be online learning pieces tailored to the specific community college to help students who have not had certain types of training at their college be equipped for the coursework they will be presented with in this degree track.

The meeting was also the beginning of a gap analysis to see what courses community colleges across Iowa are offering and how that might work with the new proposed degree. College representatives were asked to provide their course catalogs to Doug and if they did not bring them with them, to mail the physical catalogs or email online links to the course materials to Doug at dougj@iastate.edu.

After discussion of the degree, Doug mentioned how the Community College Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) and the IT-Adventures go along with the new Engineering Technology degree. He also suggested that community colleges may like to mentor high school teams in the IT-Adventures program because it provides direct contact with prospective students. Loyal Winborn commented on his success with working with the students in high school and attracting them into his program at Southwestern. Doug also mentioned that the IT-Adventures program would be ramping up to sponsor regional competitions in the coming year and that the program would be looking for community colleges that might be willing to partner with it to run the regional event.

At the end of the presentation there were also offers of conferences that those in the room might be interested in. The list follows.

Working Connections Conference – last week in June at Iowa Western
ACEIS Conference – February 19 & 20, 2009 at ISEAGE; papers due 12/15/08
Wired Differently Event – North Iowa Area Community College

Halo 3 Tournament – Southwestern Community College

The Engineering Technology presentation, as well as information about the ABET accreditation, is available at www.it-adventures.org/tech-degree. Information about the IT-Adventures program may be found at www.it-adventures.org, while information about the ACEIS conference can be found at www.aceis.org.