

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR A CENTER NAME CHANGE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY:
FROM CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING
EDUCATION TO CENTER FOR STEM EDUCATION**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by Iowa State University to change the name of the Center for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Education (CESMEE) to the Center for STEM Education in the College of Human Sciences.

Executive Summary: The name of CESMEE does not adequately reflect the focus on STEM education. ISU requests approval to change the name from *The Center for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Education* to *The Center for STEM Education*. This name change will serve as an opportunity to further engage educators from a variety of disciplines in research and scholarly activity focused on K-16 STEM education. No other Regent university has a center with this name. The Board Office reviewed this request and recommends approval.

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The mission of CESMEE is 'To be the principal source for research, professional development, leadership and advocacy for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education' with the vision identified as 'The leading research and development organization for STEM education in Iowa and the nation.' Four goals were established for the Center:
 - Build capacity to conduct research and advance knowledge that will support excellence in STEM education and inform practice and policy.
 - Lead research and advocacy efforts in STEM education in K-12 schools, community colleges and four-year colleges and universities.
 - Collaborate with key stakeholders to increase the number, and improve the retention rate of mathematics and science teachers in Iowa.
 - Be a responsive, vital, and sustainable organization in the advancement of STEM education.

- ◇ **Proposed name.** Center for STEM Education

- ◇ **Reason for proposed name change.** CESMEE has experienced other changes in name and reporting structure since its creation. However, the mission, vision and goals, and the overall focus as an entity for STEM education have not changed significantly since 1999. The name of CESMEE does not adequately reflect the focus on STEM education. This name change will serve as an opportunity to further engage educators from a variety of disciplines in research and scholarly activity focused on K-16 STEM education.

- ◇ **Relationship to other centers at the university.** STEM education is an interdisciplinary focus that crosses multiple colleges at Iowa State University. The Center's research relates to STEM education in K-16 settings, with a particular focus on post-secondary STEM education. The proposed name of the Center is more reflective of that focus.

- ◇ **Temporary or permanent.** The name change is proposed as a permanent change.

- ◇ **Consistency with funding requirements.** The Center is expected to be self-sustaining.

- ◇ Effect on center activities due to name change. Renaming the Center to align more closely with the goals and objectives as outlined will afford an opportunity to reestablish interdisciplinary faculty involvement, and identify new leadership for the Center – as the School of Education expects to eventually search for a faculty leader who has expertise in STEM education.
- ◇ Effect on resources. There are no costs to be incurred for the name change initially. It is anticipated that within a 3-year time period, new administrative leadership would be identified and, if recruited external to the university, an associate/full professor position would need to be funded (cost of no more than \$128,000). Currently there are no general funds committed to CESMEE, although School of Education staff provide pre- and post-award support for faculty active in the Center.
- ◇ Date of implementation. If approved by the Board of Regents, the name change will be implemented in Summer 2017.