

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A PROGRAM NAME CHANGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN IOWA: FROM DOCTOR OF TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM TO
DOCTOR OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to change the name of the Doctor of Technology Program to the Doctor of Industrial Technology Program in the Department of Technology in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences.

Executive Summary: The proposed program name change will create a clearer focus regarding the preparation of students. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and effective.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The Doctor of Technology Program is intended to prepare and develop individuals for careers in teaching and leadership in institutions of higher education and educational organizations. The program provides knowledge and practice in industrial technology as an intellectual discipline; the technological systems used in industry and their effect on people and the environment; and the potential and limitations of future developments in technological systems and their utilization in industry. The development of career competencies is accomplished through course requirements, internships, research activities, seminars, writing/communication experiences, and a dissertation which is a significant research effort by the doctoral candidate.

Program emphasis is on providing the intellectual tools necessary to pursue scholarly research and applied practices in the field of industrial technology. The program focuses on developing in students the interest and desire required for a leadership role in improving educational and industrial programs and determining directions for future programs.

The program is intended to prepare graduates for one or more of the following professional careers:

- ⇒ Faculty, supervisors, and consultants of applied engineering and/or technology, trade and industrial education, technical institute education and technology education in secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities.
- ⇒ Researchers and project coordinators, technology transfer specialists, technology forecasters and assessors of technology for industrial policy planning and decision making.
- ⇒ Academic leaders, such as deans, department heads, or directors of technology-oriented programs at post-secondary institutions.
- ⇒ Designers, coordinators and directors of industrial training or human resource programs, and related industrial applications.

- ◇ Reason for proposed name change. In 2010, the Department of Industrial Technology requested a department name change to the Department of Technology following a name change by the National Association of Industrial Technology to the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering. The department name change was approved by the Board of Regents in June 2012 (ESAC 4). At that time, the program name was changed also. However, the department discovered that the Doctor of Technology (DT) degree would not be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation as being equivalent to a Ph.D. Furthermore, some international governments ceased to award scholarships to their students to obtain the DT because the governments did not recognize it as being equivalent to the Ph.D. Therefore, the department has requested that the program resume its original name, Doctor of Industrial Technology.

The Doctor of Industrial Technology (DIT) is a unique degree in the U.S. and is recognized by the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation as equivalent to a Ph.D. degree. This recognition is important to national institutions and international organizations that require this recognition for the graduate degree holders from the U.S. The proposed name change will provide new opportunities to recruit international students as well as secure grants from national/international institutions for students in the form of assistantships, scholarships, internships, and employment. These opportunities will have a positive impact on the department, college, and university through new possibilities that will be available for recruiting, retaining, and graduating students.

- ◇ Comparable name at other institutions. Most institutions that have industrial technology/technology programs have different titles for their doctoral degrees. The DIT is a unique program that has achieved recognition and leadership as a flagship doctoral degree program among national programs of the same type of discipline and preparation. It is the only program in the U.S. with such a title.
- ◇ Consistency with accreditation requirements. This program is not accredited. However, the department is likely to seek accreditation from the Association for Technology, Management and Applied Engineering.
- ◇ Effect on program configuration. The number of credit hours will remain the same.
- ◇ Effect on students. Current students and those already admitted to the program will have the option of retaining the current program title (Doctor of Technology) or changing to the proposed name (Doctor of Industrial Technology) without affecting their coursework. All students admitted after Fall 2014 will be admitted to the Doctor of Industrial Technology Program. The department anticipates that more assistantships, funded internships and career placement opportunities will be available with the proposed name change.
- ◇ Effect on resources. Costs incurred by the proposed name change will be minimal. The ongoing budget for the existing program (Doctor of Technology) will be transferred to the Doctor of Industrial Technology Program.

- ◇ Proposed name consistent with College mission. The proposed name change addresses the University's mission to "be a distinguished arts and sciences university with an outstanding teacher education program."
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed program name change will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University's General Catalog. The anticipated implementation date is Spring 2015.