Memorandum

TO:    Debasish Dutta, Provost
FROM: Gary Bertoline, Dean
DATE: February 22, 2016
RE:    New Degree Program

We are proud to submit our proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology offered by the Polytechnic Institute Statewide network at Purdue University, excluding the West Lafayette campus. The degree architecture supports plan of study influenced by industry partners on its customization, and will be appropriate in approximately 15% to 18% of cases where specific industry-requested education and skill needs would be better served by more targeted flexibility than is offered in current Polytechnic degree programs. In addition to Purdue’s required University Core Curriculum, upper division, and Polytechnic requirements; up to 75 credit hours would be submitted for approval by the industry partner to the faculty advisory committee, and 8 credit hours are allowed for student free electives. To ensure depth and rigor, primary and secondary technology focus areas must be included in the plan, and all course prerequisites must be followed.

Industry partners may choose to create stackable credentials within the degree, such as non-Purdue transcripted, company-awarded “certificates of completion”, that are presented after completion of defined sets of for-credit courses within the degree. The purpose of these credentials is twofold: to serve as immediate recognition and promotion mechanisms for student/employees, and to provide motivation for students to complete the B.S. program.

The degree proposal has been vetted through the governance process in the Polytechnic Institute and the Associate Deans from the other Colleges on the West Lafayette campus.

Recommended Approval:

Debasish Dutta, Provost

Approved:

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.; President

Date

3-21-16
Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology to be Offered by Purdue University, Polytechnic Institute, through Polytechnic Statewide

Executive Summary

Based on conversations with the leadership of key Indiana companies, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, Statewide, proposes a flexible degree plan of study through which industry partners may have a significant influence on its customization. This degree option would be appropriate in the approximately 15% to 18% of cases where specific industry-requested education and skill needs would be better served by more flexibility than is offered in current Polytechnic degree programs.

The plan(s) of study for this flexible degree would be developed with industry partners, and the traditional Polytechnic Statewide faculty curriculum committee would assume the additional role of working with industry partners to identify needs and suggest appropriate courses. Faculty maintain curricular control and must approve each industry influenced set of courses for the degree. One company could potentially have multiple plans of study to address different employee workforce development needs. To ensure depth and rigor, primary and secondary Polytechnic focus areas must be identified and included in the degree plan. This element distinguishes the degree from other Polytechnic degrees.

This proposed new degree has been discussed with the leaders of Statewide’s industry partners and is of immediate interest to them. Support comes from diverse companies across the State including but not limited to Chrysler, Cummins, Red Gold, and the architectural firm Luckett & Farley.

To the end of quick implementation, this proposal requests that Purdue and the Indiana CHE expedite approval of this new, “BS in Multidisciplinary Technology” (BS-MDT) and Polytechnic Statewide would begin to immediately offer these customized industry degrees as flexible concentrations within the new BS-MDT degree.

The only strict course requirements for the B.S. would be Purdue’s required University Core Curriculum and Polytechnic requirements; up to 75 credit hours would be submitted for approval by the industry partner to the faculty advisory committee, and 8 credit hours are allowed for student free electives. To meet Polytechnic B.S. degree requirements, at least 21 credits will be Purdue Polytechnic courses at junior or higher level, with a total of at least 32 Purdue University credit hours at the junior or senior level. To ensure depth and rigor, primary and secondary technology focus areas must be included in the plan, and all course prerequisites must be followed.

Industry may choose to create stackable credentials within the degree, such as non-Purdue transcripted, company-awarded “certificates of completion”, that are presented after completion of defined sets of for-credit courses within the degree.
Program Description

Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology to be Offered by Purdue University, Polytechnic Institute, through Polytechnic Statewide

1. Characteristics of the Program
   a. Campus(es) Offering Program: Purdue Polytechnic Statewide
   b. Scope of Delivery (Specific Sites or Statewide): At the nine current, and any future, Purdue Statewide Locations and their extensions – Anderson, Columbus, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Lafayette (SIA), New Albany, Richmond, South Bend, and Vincennes
   c. Mode of Delivery (Classroom, Blended, or Online): Blended and Online
   d. Other Delivery Aspects (Co-ops, Internships, Clinicals, Practica, etc.): Internships strongly encouraged, but not required at this time
   e. Academic Unit Offering Program: Purdue University Polytechnic Institute Statewide

2. Rationale for Program
   a. Institutional Rationale (e.g. Alignment with Institutional Mission and Strengths)

   Why is the institution proposing this program?
   Based on ongoing discussions with numerous industry partners at key companies across Indiana, and coupled with the implementation of the Purdue Polytechnic Initiative, the Polytechnic Statewide proposes a flexible degree plan of study through which industry partners can suggest and influence, with faculty oversight and final approval, their own customized degree plans to meet unique and evolving workforce education requirements. This degree option would be appropriate only in cases where the required courses in current Purdue degrees do not meet specific, industry-defined education/skill needs. Current estimates indicate 15% to 18% of Statewide students would pursue this degree option.

   This proposal requests approval to:
   (1) create a new B.S. degree in “Multidisciplinary Technology” (MDT),
   (2) allow the MDT plan of study to be flexible and developed in partnership with company/industry collaborators to meet specific industry educational needs, with the possibility of the student earning non-Purdue transcribed, company-awarded “stackable certificates of completion” comprised of for-credit courses, in route to earning the B.S. degree, and
   (3) offer the MDT degree at all nine of the current Polytechnic Statewide Locations/extensions, and any future Locations/extensions. Current Polytechnic Statewide Locations are: Anderson, Columbus, Kokomo, Indianapolis, Lafayette (SIA), New Albany, Richmond, South Bend, and Vincennes.

   There exists strong industry support for the MDT degree with a very flexible curriculum to support industry partners across all regions of the state.
Why is the Purdue Polytechnic proposing a “workforce” degree?
The proposed B.S. degree in Multidisciplinary Technology is workforce oriented and in response to industry requests.

Over the past three years several key Indiana companies including SIA, Red Gold, Chrysler, and Cummins have approached the Polytechnic’s Statewide Locations about providing non-credit training, certificate programs, and associate of science degrees for their employees. The Purdue Statewide staff or faculty contacted by those companies referred them to Ivy Tech, and the response received has been that the company would prefer to work with Purdue Polytechnic for some specific subject matter areas where the Polytechnic has extensive course offerings.

Companies have requested this type of degree, with stackable embedded credentials such as non-transcripted, company-awarded “certificates of completion”, comprised of for-credit courses, because they use the completion of such credentials as a requirement for many positions/promotions and also as a metric for the employee-student to take on additional work responsibilities. In addition, the companies recognize the intrinsic value, and student retention benefit, of nontraditional part-time students earning these certificates of completion along the long path to a B.S. degree. The courses required for these certificates of completion would be courses taken in the plan of study for the B.S. degree. Since the proposed B.S. degree is targeted at the workforce, accommodating industry requests seems prudent.

Students earning certificates of completion as they work toward completion of the B.S. MDT will have no impact on the college’s articulation agreements, and such certificates do not eliminate additional partnerships with the State’s two-year institutions; the proposed B.S. MDT may be set up as a 2 + 2 with Ivy Tech and/or Vincennes University, in accordance with the industry partners’ needs and preferences, and satisfactory fulfillment of Purdue prerequisites. Purdue Polytechnic welcomes and encourages Ivy Tech and Vincennes A.S. graduates with the appropriate preparation to continue their education at Purdue Statewide.

How is it consistent with the mission of the institution?
Purdue Polytechnic’s Statewide is a unique partnership between education, industry, and government. It was created in 1984 to help meet Indiana’s need for additional graduates across the state in the STEM disciplines.

The Statewide programs allow Purdue to meet the educational needs of those students (traditional and nontraditional) who desire a Purdue education, but cannot attend the West Lafayette campus or a Purdue Regional Campus for a variety of reasons.

Because of the close partnership between the nine current Statewide Locations and the industry base in their service regions, industry input into the curricula in
Multidisciplinary Technology is a natural extension of the Polytechnic’s and Statewide’s missions, as well as Purdue University’s land grant mission, and the State of Indiana’s well-publicized need for enhanced workforce education programs.

How does this program fit into the institution’s strategic and/or academic plan? The current strategic plan for the Polytechnic and its Statewide programs includes increased enrollment, enhanced engagement with Indiana businesses and industries, and innovative curricula to drive the education of the 21st century technologist. The proposed B.S. degree in Multidisciplinary Technology supports all three of these strategic initiatives.

While this degree would be housed in Purdue’s Polytechnic, where most of the degree programs are ABET accredited, due to the flexible and customizable curricula of this new degree the MDT degree would not be appropriate for ABET accreditation.

How does this program build upon the strengths of the institution? Purdue Polytechnic Statewide already offers a large portfolio of many of the engineering technology courses desired by business and industry. Although Indiana’s businesses are very supportive of Statewide and hire a significant percentage of graduates from the college’s existing degree programs, in many cases businesses also need a “course package” different from those present in our existing degree programs. We are receiving requests for this type of “flexible” degree from companies and industry groups that are significant players in Indiana’s economy.

Appropriate to Purdue’s land grant mission, the flexible curriculum that the Multidisciplinary Technology degree provides will meet the diverse workforce educational needs of individual companies across Indiana, exposing students to a wide variety of technologies – requested by industry partners and approved by Polytechnic faculty – and enabling graduates to be vital contributors to the economic engine of the State of Indiana. The students in this program will take courses at their home campus, as well as courses from faculty from across Purdue University and the Purdue Polytechnic via distance delivery.

The Polytechnic already has in place several articulation agreements with Indiana’s two-year institutions. When requested by industry, and academically appropriate, this degree also will be articulated with other institutions including, but not limited to, Ivy Tech Community College and/or Vincennes University. Articulation agreements will be developed as the businesses work with Purdue to develop their plans of study.
b. State Rationale

How does this program address state priorities as reflected in *Reaching Higher, Achieving More*?
The Multidisciplinary Technology degree provides a fully **workforce-aligned** plan of study because the degree offers a customizable course plan for specific industry educational needs and provides students with the knowledge and skills needed for employment at companies in their home region of Indiana. Because they will be offered in nine or more regions across the state, this degree will offer an **efficient pathway** for students to complete a Purdue baccalaureate degree in their home region of the state.

**Admission requirements** and the anticipated student clientele for this degree fully support *Reaching Higher, Achieving More*. Because this is a workforce degree option, not necessarily suited to most “traditional” college students, the admission standards for this program need to be flexible; Purdue’s holistic admissions review process allows for this, as admission requirements for this degree will be based on Purdue’s Regional Campus Technology program standards – not main campus admission requirements. Also, in keeping with alignment with workforce needs, SAT scores will be required for admission for nontraditional students.

In cases where some remedial courses in English and/or math are required by the student, then the Statewide Location would make arrangements to offer these classes in house as non-credit workshops, or allow them to be taken at any college including Ivy Tech or Vincennes University. No prerequisite work experience or degrees are required for entry into the program, unless requested by the industry partner and approved by the faculty.

The MDT degree program seeks to serve a broader student clientele from across the State who desire and/or require specific skills and credentials for a specific company or industry sector.

c. Evidence of Labor Market Need

i. National, State, or Regional Need

The development of this degree program emerged from two primary sources. First, companies from diverse industries across the state have expressed a strong interest in such a degree option from Purdue’s Polytechnic Statewide at the B.S. level. Second, many students graduate with an Associate’s Degree in manufacturing and related areas and the B.S. MDT degree option would allow them to complete a baccalaureate degree relevant for a specific industry and thus benefit from the employment benefits and promotion opportunities commensurate with a Purdue Bachelor’s degree. One example is Cummins’ request for a degree program with a primary coursework focus area in Metrology.
ii. Preparation for Graduate Programs or Other Benefits
This Bachelor of Science Degree will prepare some students who desire to enter graduate programs by providing a broad range of knowledge as well as depth within concentration area(s) suggested by industry. The appropriate field of study at the graduate level would vary depending on the focus area of the B.S. degree as developed by faculty and the industry partner.

iii. Summary of Indiana DWD and/or U.S. Department of Labor Data
Given the significance of advanced manufacturing to Indiana’s economy, it is anticipated that advanced manufacturing firms will be key industry partners for the Multidisciplinary Technology degree. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2013 manufacturers in Indiana accounted for 30% of the total output in the State and employed 16.8% of the workforce, with an average annual compensation of $73,485. Many of the industry partners who have approached the College about MDT are major automotive manufacturers; firms crucial to Indiana’s economic growth and providers of high wage jobs:

- Chrysler, Kokomo and Tipton
- Cummins, Columbus and Seymour
- Subaru Indiana Automotive, Lafayette
- Toyota, Princeton

The United States Department of Labor has declared Advanced Manufacturing to be a “High Growth Industry” as shown at [http://www.doleta.gov/BRG/Indprof/Manufacturing_profile.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/BRG/Indprof/Manufacturing_profile.cfm) and initiatives to support advanced manufacturing education are key. From the DOL website:

*High Growth Industry Profile: Advanced Manufacturing*
- The manufacturing sector continues to account for 14 percent of U.S. GDP and 11 percent of total U.S. employment. Moreover, manufacturing firms fund 60 percent of the $193 billion that the U.S. private sector invests annually in R&D. (U.S. Department of Commerce)
- Manufacturing salaries and benefits average $65,000, higher than the average for the total private sector. Two factors in particular attract workers to manufacturing: higher pay and benefits and opportunities for advanced education and training. (National Association of Manufacturers)

This data remains unchanged as of 2011 when the Manufacturing Institute surveyed over 1,100 U.S. manufacturers and found that 83% of companies reported moderate-to-serious shortages in skilled positions.
For production engineers, 60% reported a moderate-to-serious shortage followed by product designers at 50%.

Training for Innovation
• The capacity for innovation is the primary competitive advantage for U.S. manufacturers in the global marketplace. Therefore, manufacturers need workers who are continually focused on innovating products and services, as well as production and business processes. Workers need the basic academic, workplace and technical skills that will enable them to support the innovation requirements of an advanced manufacturing environment.

Pipeline
• Too few young people consider the possibility of manufacturing careers and do not know what skills they need to succeed. Similarly, students do not always graduate from high school equipped with the necessary skills or are knowledgeable about manufacturing career opportunities.

Capacity Building
• Education providers need the curriculum, equipment, qualified instructors and other tools necessary to train the highly skilled workforce that advanced manufacturers need. Educators need to define the specific competencies and implement the career ladder and lattice models that will enable workers to continually enhance their skills.
(National Association of Manufacturers)
Also supported at: http://www.nam.org/MFGWorkforce/

iv. National, State, or Regional Studies
The Multidisciplinary Technology degree supports educational initiatives linked to Governor Pence’s 2014 Roadmap for Jobs and the Economy: http://www.imaweb.com/2014-pence-jobs-economy-agenda/
That report notes that Indiana spends nearly $115 million on secondary career and technical education (CTE), yet few students enroll in courses that lead to high-wage, high-demand jobs, and none of the top seven CTE courses (measured by enrollment) lead to high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Governor also proposes to create performance-based programs to equip under-skilled adults for today’s jobs. The training will help adults with a high school degree or equivalency attain the certifications necessary to find a high-wage, high-demand job in their region. The program will use performance-based contracts and give priority to providers that assist with job placement. Additionally, the Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce estimates in 2018, 55 percent of all Indiana jobs will require some postsecondary training beyond high school.

Finally, the Indiana “Skills2Compete Coalition” found that 54 percent of jobs in Indiana are middle-skilled positions, but only 47 percent of Hoosiers have the necessary skills and credentials.
v. Surveys of Employers or Students and Analyses of Job Postings

Purdue-sponsored industry focus groups held across the state for IN-MaC and other purposes in 2012 and 2013 have documented high demand for, and very limited supply of, technical personnel with manufacturing and related non-analytic skills.

As previously stated, many key Indiana employers have requested that Purdue work with them to create a flexible degree plan of study at both the Certificate and Baccalaureate level. The nine current Statewide Locations are well connected with companies in their region and this degree would offer a critical pipeline from which those companies could fill crucial employment shortages in crucial engineering technologist positions.

MDT will provide Indiana employers with a previously-unavailable amount of flexibility to influence and match in-house certificate of completion and Purdue B.S. degree plans of study to their current workforce needs in order to rapidly address critical education and skill shortages. It will provide graduates for existing and emerging jobs and careers in a variety of engineering technologist and related technology positions. Graduates will be prepared to support existing and future manufacturing and technology workforce needs in Indiana, as well as the engineering and service companies that support those employers.

Typically, graduates from all of the Statewide Locations stay and work in the State of Indiana, making this delivery mechanism an important factor in reversing “brain drain” and helping with the economic development of the state. Graduates from this program are expected to have excellent placement success and high initial salaries.

vi. Letters of support

Please see the Appendix for letters of support from companies, alumni, and chambers of commerce from across the state, including:

- Chrysler, Kokomo
- Red Gold, Elwood
- Cummins, Columbus
- Electronics, Inc., Mishawaka
- Luckett & Farley Architects, Jeffersonville
- Indiana Automotive Council, Indianapolis
- Kokomo, Wayne and Knox County Chambers of Commerce
3. Cost of and Support for the Program
   a. Costs
      i. Faculty and Staff
         All of the currently required and selective courses are regularly offered across the Statewide Locations and are currently available to support existing degree programs. Industry partners would suggest their plans of study from the portfolio of existing courses and thus there should be little or no initial need for new courses.
         
         Statewide is finalizing a faculty hiring plan to address some subject matter areas that need to be delivered by full time faculty instead of adjuncts. That hiring plan, and current staff, is sufficient for this new program’s initial needs. New courses may be developed, as needed, to support industry education needs not already addressed in existing courses. Additional future funding for creating and improving the quality of delivery for this new program at multiple Statewide Locations may be requested, if and as needed.

      ii. Facilities
         The various Statewide Locations’ classrooms, laboratories, and library support are sufficient for the requirements of this program, as they currently sufficiently meet the needs of other programs across the Locations. The effect of this program on other instructional programs will be negligible. Many of the required and elective courses are regularly offered on campus and are available to students in other degree programs. Students in this new MDT program would join in courses that are already offered for other degree programs.

      iii. Other Capital Costs (e.g. equipment)
         While current classroom and laboratory facilities are in place to support the required courses, laboratories and lab equipment for all engineering technology-type courses and programs require periodic upgrades to keep current with state-of-practice in academia and industry. Such upgrades would be paid from funding sources such as additional state appropriation to upgrade facilities, donor support, and as a last resort, increases in student technology and/or lab fees.

   b. Support
      i. Nature of Support (New, Existing, or Reallocated)
         The program will generate, through new students’ tuition income, sufficient resources to cover the incremental costs of new faculty. Given the anticipated student demand and industry support, we believe that Multidisciplinary Technology will generate significant enrollment growth and therefore it is appropriate to allocate existing faculty, staff, and laboratory resources to this program.
In addition, many industry partners, including SIA and Red Gold, have indicated that they plan to use a company-paid tuition benefit to support these students, so the cost of education is borne by the company and students will not need student loans, etc., to pay for their education.

ii. Special Fees above Baseline Tuition
No new program fee is anticipated for the program. The same tuition and other fee structure currently in place will apply to students in the proposed program.

4. Similar and Related Programs
   a. List of Programs and Degrees Conferred
      i. Similar Programs at Other Institutions Within the State
         A review of the various “career ready” degrees offered across Indiana at both the A.S. and the B.S. level finds no degrees offering industry partners the level of potential customization available in Multidisciplinary Technology.

      ii. Related Programs at the Proposing Institution
         The existing Purdue B.S. degree in Engineering Technology currently offered in Statewide offers students an opportunity to customize about 18 credit hours of a 120 credit degree, but there is no provision to partner with industry to flex up to 75 credit hours, and there is no stackable certificate of completion option.

   b. List of Similar Programs Outside Indiana
      Flexible and somewhat customizable degree programs (under a variety of names) can be found at the graduate level nationwide, but rarely are offered at the undergraduate level. With the notable exception of MIT, no undergraduate university program could be found with significant industry input into a flexible, technical curriculum. (http://engineering.mit.edu/programs/flexible)

   c. Articulation of Associate/Baccalaureate Programs
      This degree could be articulated with Ivy Tech and/or Vincennes University as appropriate to, and requested by, industry partners. A maximum of 60 credits would transfer (and fully count towards B.S. degree completion) from appropriate two-year degrees, as suggested by industry partners and approved by faculty. Purdue University’s “reverse transfer” agreements also would apply.

   d. Collaboration with Similar or Related Programs on Other Campuses
      There are no similar programs at Purdue’s main campus or its Regional Campuses. As this program will be housed within the Polytechnic, it will share resources across all Statewide Locations. Courses for this program are also required for other existing degree programs and, as is currently the case, some courses will be offered via distance to students at all Statewide Locations.
5. Quality and Other Aspects of the Program  
   a. Credit Hours Required/Time To Completion

   The B.S. degree requires 120 credit hours. Assuming a student takes 30 credits per year, this would result in a student graduating in four years for the B.S. However, it is anticipated that a majority of the students in these programs will be nontraditional, working adults who will be part time students. Thus, their time to completion will be influenced by the number of credits they can mesh with their work schedules and other life responsibilities.

   Additionally, if any company or industry group would desire to run a model where they select students to attend full time in a cohort for an accelerated 3-year B.S. degree program, courses could be scheduled and arranged to include a twelve-month academic schedule. Thus, students would take 15 credit hours each fall/spring semester for three academic years, and 15 credit hours each of the two summers they are in the program.

   The curriculum has the following program objectives. It will serve both students and industry clients by employing technical knowledge, problem-solving techniques, and applied engineering and technology skills in traditional and emerging areas that are specific to individual company and/or industry trade group needs. Graduates will be prepared to take on roles of increasing professional responsibility, in response to emerging technologies and technical systems unique to Indiana’s varied and diverse industries.

   Graduates of the Multidisciplinary Technology degree program will be able to work effectively to complete projects as members of multidisciplinary teams and work within the accepted standards of professional integrity and conduct. In order to complete these program objectives, our industry partners will propose up to 75 credit hours, of the B.S. degree’s curriculum:
   • Purdue University’s Core Curriculum and Polytechnic requirements – minimum 37 credit hours
   • Industry partner-identified and faculty approved technical selective courses, plus student selected free electives – up to 83 credit hours

   To earn the B.S. degree, at least 21 credits must be Polytechnic courses from 3xxxx-level courses or above, with a total of at least 32 Purdue upper-division credits to meet Purdue degree requirements. A 27 credit hour, minimum, primary focus area and a 12 credit hour, minimum, secondary focus area must be identified.

   The curriculum is multidisciplinary in nature, taking into account the current faculty expertise at the Statewide Locations. The core requirement for the B.S. degree is up to 75 credit hours of industry-suggested and faculty-approved courses, primarily from the Polytechnic, which may include courses in Aviation, Construction Management, Computer and Information Technology, Computer Graphics Technology, Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology,
Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Organizational Leadership, and/or Supply Chain Management Technology as well as majors such as Robotics, Mechatronics, and Manufacturing.

Curriculum for the MDT degree will be influenced by industry partners with the traditional faculty curriculum committee serving in an advisory role. An MDT faculty curriculum advisory committee will be created with at least one faculty represented from each Polytechnic degree program offered in Statewide and at least one faculty member from each Statewide Location, and all curriculum decisions ultimately rest with the faculty. The MDT degree will be housed in the Polytechnic to support workforce education, thus, to guarantee timely response to our industry partner’s educational needs, curriculum approval will rest with the faculty curriculum advisory committee within Statewide, and plans of study will be placed on file with the Polytechnic Institute and University Registrar.

The MDT faculty curriculum advisory committee also will work with industry partners to apply transfer courses and/or degree programs from the U.S. Armed Forces, Vincennes University, Ivy Tech, and/or other institutions, as appropriate.

Procedure for Building a Plan of Study in MDT:

A “Multidisciplinary Technology (MDT) Curriculum Advisory Committee” will be formed. Initial membership is proposed to be the faculty whose names are on the initial curriculum document. This Committee would always be composed of at least one faculty from each degree offered in Statewide, and at least one faculty member from each Statewide Location.

Process:

- Company or industry representative contacts the Statewide Location or is solicited by faculty or staff from the Statewide Location
- Statewide Location Director arranges an initial meeting to discuss specific educational outcomes and knowledge and skill proficiencies needed by the company
- If these outcomes describe an existing Polytechnic or other Purdue degree, then the MDT degree is not warranted
- If unique educational needs are identified, then the Location Director arranges a second meeting between the company and appropriate faculty members who represent the Polytechnic subject areas of interest to the company
Faculty match the company’s desired educational outcomes with appropriate University, Polytechnic, and other courses. Faculty also ensure that a primary and secondary focus area is identified and all course prerequisites and other Purdue University B.S. degree requirements are met in the proposed plan of study.

Upon completion of the proposed plan of study, that draft plan is submitted to the MDT Curriculum Advisory Committee for review, audit of requirements, and a vote to approve the plan for the company -- or to revise and resubmit.

The MDT Curriculum Advisory Committee will meet on an as-needed basis, and may convene via distance (Polycom, Skype, WebEx, etc.) due to the geographic distance between the Statewide Locations.

Another matter under the authority of the MDT Curriculum Advisory Committee would be transfer credits and programs. Many Indiana companies have relationships with two-year colleges, especially Vincennes University’s manufacturing-oriented A.S. degrees, and applying transfer credit and assurance of prerequisites would be the purview of this Advisory Committee.

The next page presents a summary of the course requirements in a sample eight semester plan of study:
Table 1: Sample Eight Semester Plan of Study

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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> 15</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> 15</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 7</th>
<th>Cr</th>
<th>Semester 8</th>
<th>Cr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Focus Area Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Primary Focus Area Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary Selective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Primary Focus Area Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary Selective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary Selective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary Selective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary Selective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Free Elective</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> 15</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These courses satisfy the Purdue University Core and Polytechnic Curriculum
To earn the B.S. degree, at least 21 credits must be Polytechnic courses from 3xxxx-level courses or above, with a total of at least 32 Purdue upper-division credits to meet Purdue degree requirements. A 27 credit hour, minimum, primary focus area and a 12 credit hour, minimum, secondary focus area must be identified in the plan. Any and all prerequisite courses must be included in the developed plan of study and those courses must count toward the 120 credit hour total.

The Multidisciplinary Technology degree program is designed with a flexible curriculum to meet the needs of the Indiana workforce and industry partners. The approval processes for this degree’s courses and plan of study will be developed to provide maximum input from industry partners. The degree will provide graduates with a solid foundation in industry-determined technology principles, while giving flexibility for different Statewide Locations to concentrate their coursework to the needs of the local industrial community.

Industry partners may also define non-Purdue transcripted, company-awarded certificates of completion, comprised of for-credit courses, that a company or industry professional organization could present “en-route” to the B.S. degree. These certificates would be stackable credentials (all courses would apply toward the B.S. degree requirements) that would demonstrate to the employer that a student has completed identified blocks of for-credit courses that indicate a certain skill level or competency. These “certificates” may allow employment or promotion opportunities for some students before completion of the entire B.S. degree.

b. Exceeding the Standard Expectation of Credit Hours
   This program does not exceed 120 credit hours for the B.S.

c. Program Competencies or Learning Outcomes
   Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology, Program Educational Objectives
   After completing the degree and working in the profession, the graduate of the MDT program should be able to, within the bounds of the industry associated with the partner company or companies:
   - Employ industry-appropriate technical knowledge, problem-solving techniques, and applied engineering and technology skills
   - Participate actively in ongoing professional development, professional growth, and increasing professional responsibility
   - Document and present industry-appropriate technical information in written and oral form to technical and non-technical people
   - Work effectively to complete projects as a leader and/or member of multidisciplinary teams
   - Act within the accepted standards of professional integrity and conduct
Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology, Program Outcomes
Upon graduation, each student will demonstrate:

- Effective communication in oral, written, and visual modes
- An ability to collaborate in teams to achieve a common goal
- Competency with the foundations of the industry-appropriate technology discipline
- An ethical and professional foundation of cultural issues, individual diversity, and responsibility to our global society
- An ability to apply pertinent, industry-relevant knowledge and innovation in identifying and solving problems with a commitment to quality, timeliness, and continuous improvement

d. Assessment
The Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology will be assessed on each of the above criteria. Specific assessment criteria and measurements will be established and agreed to with the industry partner as the curriculum is developed.

In addition, the following methods will be utilized for the ongoing evaluation of the Multidisciplinary Technology degrees at all Locations:

- Data will be maintained on placement of graduates by the Statewide Location
- All alumni will have the opportunity to be part of follow-up studies
- Data will be kept on the number of students in the program and numbers of graduates from the program
- Industry and/or corporate partners at each Location will meet as needed with faculty and Polytechnic Statewide administration to develop, oversee, and modify the program and make recommendations based on dynamic industry needs and factors

Program quality will be evaluated by industry partners in cooperation with Statewide faculty. Evaluation will be based on retention, placement, career advancement of graduates, and employer satisfaction data.

This degree will not be submitted for ABET accreditation because industry partners are influencing the plans of study and, in effect, are serving as the external evaluator of degree objectives and outcomes. A flexible and customizable degree plan such as this will not easily fit ABET criteria as the degree plans will evolve and change with industry needs, and there will not be a consistent pipeline of graduates to evaluate from a single plan of study.

e. Licensure and Certification
Not applicable, unless an industry partner ties the curriculum to a relevant industry certification program or exam.
f. Placement of Graduates
The Multidisciplinary Technology degree will be developed in partnership with individual employers and/or industry groups to educate and develop existing employees for additional responsibilities, and also to use as a “corporate university” platform from which to hire new employees. As such, the placement rate for graduates should be at or near 100%.

Due to curricular flexibility, the Multidisciplinary Technology degree program will provide a broad array of position titles at the discretion of our industry partners. Because the curriculum is flexible to the needs of the workforce, possibilities for students should also be varied. With an earned MDT degree, graduates can expect to see increased opportunities for employment and/or advancement.

The Multidisciplinary Technology degree also may be appropriate for those students seeking work or advancement within certain industries where this degree has a customized plan of study. Although the degree would not limit graduates to employment within a specific company, potential students would be informed that a particular MDT plan of study is customized to fit specific industry groups or companies. Students who desire a degree with more flexible employment options upon graduation would be advised to enroll in one of the Polytechnic’s traditional degree programs, which are also offered in Statewide.

g. Accreditation
There is no accreditation agency for this degree program.
### 6. Projected Headcount and FTE Enrollment and Degrees Conferred

#### Table 2: Projected Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/Location: Purdue Polytechnic Statewide</th>
<th>Program: Bachelor of Science Multidisciplinary Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIP Code:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Base Budget Year:</strong></td>
<td>2016-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td><strong>Enrollment Projections (Headcount)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Students</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Students</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enrollment Projections (FTE)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Students</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Students</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. S. Degree Completion Projection</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CHE Code:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Campus Code:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Degree Level:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CIP Code:</strong></td>
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</tr>
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</table>
# B.S. in Multidisciplinary Technology

To Be Offered by Purdue University, Polytechnic Statewide Locations

Table 3: Cost Detail, B.S. in Multidisciplinary Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total FTE</th>
<th>Cost (FY 2016)</th>
<th>Total FTE</th>
<th>Cost (FY 2017)</th>
<th>Total FTE</th>
<th>Cost (FY 2018)</th>
<th>Total FTE</th>
<th>Cost (FY 2019)</th>
<th>Total FTE</th>
<th>Cost (FY 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>#2</td>
<td></td>
<td>#3</td>
<td></td>
<td>#4</td>
<td></td>
<td>#5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Faculty and Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Faculty</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Limited Term Lecturers</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>6.8</td>
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<td>8.50</td>
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2. Supplies and Expense

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2016)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2017)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2018)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2019)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2020)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>b. Recruiting</td>
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<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>c. Travel</td>
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<td>d. Library</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>e. Other</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Supplies and Expense</td>
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<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2016)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2017)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2018)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2019)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Additional Lab Equipment</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Routine Repair &amp; Replacement</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Equipment</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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4. Student Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2016)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2017)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2018)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2019)</th>
<th>Total Cost (FY 2020)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Graduate Fee Scholarships</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Fellowships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Student Assistance</td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
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</table>

Sum of All Direct Program Costs | $20,000.00 | $20,000.00 | $20,000.00 | $20,000.00 | $20,000.00 |
Appendix 1: Letters of Support

May 5, 2014

Jeffrey A. Griffin
Director Purdue College of Technology, Kokomo
2300 South Washington Street
Kokomo, IN 46904

Dear Jeff,

This correspondence is to offer support of the “Technology Integration” (TI) degree program proposed for the Purdue College of Technology location in Kokomo. Chrysler has a strong history in the region and is looking forward to continued growth, but access to a well-educated workforce is needed to be competitive in global manufacturing. The TI degree that provides the ability for Chrysler to customize both an Associate’s and Bachelor’s degree to meet the education needs of the employees and company at the same time is very appealing because it will advance the educational level of our workforce.

Many graduates from the degree programs at the Purdue College of Technology Kokomo currently work in the Chrysler plants, but having another tool address the specific developmental needs would be a tremendous asset. The choice of degrees being offered, as well as, the proposed is appropriate and forward thinking.

I am pleased to support the proposed Technology Integration degree program that includes a customizable associate’s and bachelor’s degrees.

If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

James E. Woolf, Ph.D.
Chrysler Group LLC Community Outreach and Educational Engagement

Chrysler Group LLC | 2401 S Reed Rd | Kokomo, IN | 46902
Dear Dr. Fuehne:

February 27, 2014

As Director of Measurement Excellence for Cummins, Inc., I enthusiastically support the “Build Your Own Degree” program proposed for the Purdue College of Technology location in Columbus, Indiana. Every company, including Cummins, has unique needs for their employees and we as a company spend a great deal of time and money training new employees in disciplines and skills they have not previously acquired. In my specific area this has included skills and knowledge in dimensional metrology, calibration procedures, geometric dimensioning and tolerancing, measurement systems analysis, and measurements of form to validate product design. Classes in these topics have been created at the Columbus location but it would be valuable to mix and match these classes with other classes in the organizational leadership and supervision, industrial technology, and mechanical engineering technology programs to create a single (or maybe several) customized programs that would address the specific needs of Cummins employees in Columbus.

This concept of “Build Your Own Degree” program being proposed would be of tremendous value to Cummins. In particular, the ability to define a specific program and not have to wait several semesters or years for approval is especially appealing. Again, I enthusiastically support the proposal and would be happy to further discuss the potential for this idea if necessary.

Sincerely,

Steven Stahley Director Measurement Excellence

Cummins Inc. Street Address, MC 92630 Columbus, IN, 47201 USA Phone 1 812 377 2094 E-Mail: steven.r.stahley@cummins.com cummins.com
Corey Sharp  
Director  
Purdue College of Technology, Anderson  
2705 Enterprise Drive  
Anderson, IN. 46013

Dear Corey,

I support the Technology Integration “Build Your Own Degree” program proposed for the Purdue College of Technology location in Anderson, Indiana. Every company, including Red Gold, has unique needs for their employees and we as a company spend a great deal of time and money training new employees in disciplines and skills they have not previously acquired. The successful ten year Red Gold partnership with Purdue COT, Anderson has developed over 20 Supervisors skilled in managing processes and people. In addition to the Organizational Leadership and Supervision program it would be valuable for Red Gold to supplement the OLS program with additional classes offered in industrial technology and engineering technology. The ability to create a customized program will further our ability to address the specific developmental needs of Red Gold employees in Madison County.

This concept of “Build Your Own Degree” program being proposed as an associate’s or bachelor’s degree would be of tremendous value to Red Gold. In particular, the ability to define a specific program and not have to wait several semesters or years for approval is especially appealing. Again, I support the proposal and would be happy to further discuss the potential for this idea if necessary.

Sincerely,

Tim Tingle  
Vice President  
Human Resources and Corporate Strategy  
Red Gold  
1500 Tomato Country Way  
Elwood, IN, 46036  
Phone: 765-557-5500  
E-Mail: tingle@redgold.com
May 21, 2014

Steve Shelby
Director
Purdue College of Technology Lafayette
5500 State Road 38 East
Lafayette, IN 47905

Dear Steve:

Remy International, Inc. enthusiastically supports the new Technology Integration degree proposed for the Purdue College of Technology Statewide program. The Indiana automotive industry has benefitted from hiring graduates from the College of Technology in the past. However, we are especially excited about the Technology Integration degree, as it allows manufacturers like Remy International to hire graduates unique to their individual needs, providing greater flexibility and specialization. Remy International spends a great deal of time and money training new employees in disciplines and skills they have not previously acquired. This program will provide Indiana employers new flexibility to match a degree to their current needs to address critical education and skill shortages. We feel these graduates will be better prepared to support existing and future manufacturing and technology workforce needs in Indiana, as well as the engineering and service companies that support those employers.

The flexible curriculum that the proposed Technology Integration degree provides should meet the diverse needs of individual companies across Indiana, enabling new graduates to be vital contributors to the economic engine of the State of Indiana. Hiring graduates with an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree in Technology Integration would be of great value to Remy International. We support the proposal and look forward to the degree receiving official approval and being offered as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

John J. Pittas
President and Chief Executive Officer
May 23, 2014

Steve Shelby
Director
Purdue College of Technology Lafayette
5500 State Road 38 East
Lafayette, IN  47905

Dear Steve:

The Indiana Automotive Council enthusiastically supports the new Technology Integration degree proposed for the Purdue College of Technology Statewide program. The Indiana automotive industry has benefitted from hiring graduates from the College of Technology in the past. However, we are especially excited about the Technology Integration degree, as it allows each automotive manufacturer to hire graduates unique to their individual needs, providing greater flexibility and specialization. Member companies of the Indiana Automotive Council spend a great deal of time and money training new employees in disciplines and skills they have not previously acquired. This program will provide Indiana employers new flexibility to match a degree to their current needs to address critical education and skill shortages. We feel these graduates will be better prepared to support existing and future manufacturing and technology workforce needs in Indiana, as well as the engineering and service companies that support those employers.

The flexible curriculum that the proposed Technology Integration degree provides should meet the diverse needs of individual companies across Indiana, enabling new graduates to be vital contributors to the economic engine of the State of Indiana. Hiring graduates with an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree in Technology Integration would be of great value to the members of the Indiana Automotive Council. We support the proposal and look forward to the degree receiving official approval and being offered as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Matthew Conrad
Director
April 8, 2014

Ralph Andrew Schaffer, Associate Dean
Purdue University College of Technology – Statewide Technology
3000 Technology Avenue, Suite 100
New Albany, Indiana 47150

Dear Associate Dean Schaffer,

I recently attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Purdue Alumni Club of St. Joseph Valley. At that meeting Mike Sanders, director of the College of Technology location in South Bend, gave a brief overview some of the changes planned within the College.

I am writing today to express my support for the Purdue Polytechnic Institute and for the new Associate and Bachelor degree in Technology Integration. This new degree program, as it was explained, would be a flexible degree program through which industry partners could design a plan of study which would meet the unique needs of that industry. Further it would blend courses from several disciplines with the goal of producing graduates with skills in more than one specialty. This “design your own degree” program is a perfect solution for many industries when traditional degree programs don’t quite meet their unique needs.

I look forward, as I’m sure other industries in the Michiana area will, to working with our local Purdue College of Technology to design a degree programs that will serve the unique needs of my company.

Sincerely,

Jack Champaigne, President
March 9, 2014

To Whom It May Concern Indiana Commission for Higher Education
101 W Ohio St. Ste. 550 Room CHE Indianapolis, IN 46204

Subject: Need for a New Degree Program

Dear ICHE Commissioner.

As President of a manufacturing company with 97 employees, I am concerned about the possible changes within the School of Technology Degree programs. If the move of the Engineering Technology BS program from the Technology Leadership and Innovation Department to the School of Engineering Technology means that the program will become more of a mechanical-electrical advanced manufacturing degree and less of a multidisciplinary degree program then a replacement degree needs to be developed.

In this challenging economy, smaller manufacturing firms have been forced to reduce staff to match reduced business levels. This had resulted in an increasing need for employees who can “wear more than one hat”. A flexible technical degree program is even more important for these smaller firms. A degree that is customizable to meet the individual needs of each specialized business is an essential component of the current programs to support the Indiana economic recovery.

I am confident that companies with a need for multi-talented employees will be able to justify spending scarce resources to sponsor students participating in such a program. A rapid development and approval process would be beneficial to all.

Sincerely,

Tom Hilkert President BSME Purdue 1964
April 28, 2014

Ms. Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner
Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE)
101 W. Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Lubbers:

Purdue University’s College of Technology continues to have a positive impact on the quality of life in the Greater Louisville Region, through their New Albany location. The College is impacting our communities due to the quality of their STEM graduates.

As the College grows, I believe a critical step for them is to consider how they can increase their impact on business and industry through their degrees and overall training. Our business and industry needs in the marketplace are highly competitive, and we value Purdue University graduates.

The College’s proposed AS and BS degrees in Technology Integration is a positive step in the right direction. With these degrees allowing the College to develop customized plans of study within technology for companies, I feel business and industry would have a key tool in order for them to be more successful. If such degrees became a reality, I would encourage companies to send current employees to this program for education and career development. I would consider doing the same.

As a resident of Indiana with contacts at Indiana University as well, I believe our state is making important strides towards leading the Midwest in higher education. Thank you for your leadership and, also, for the ICHE’s consideration of this important workforce degree. I think this is an important step forward.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Jerdonæk, AIA, LEED AP
President & CEO
May 2, 2014

Jeffrey A. Griffin
Director
Purdue College of Technology, Kokomo
2300 South Washington Street
Kokomo, IN 46904

Dear Jeff,

I am excited to learn of the potential for the development of a Technology Integration degree program at the Purdue College of Technology location in Kokomo. The program fits well with Kokomo’s employer base and its reputation for technological innovation and advanced manufacturing.

The program would provide local employers with a practical and attractive opportunity to improve employee skills in an area of importance to their competitive success. A skilled and educated workforce is a key component for the continued growth in manufacturing leadership and for being competitive in a global economy.

The fact that the proposed Technology Integration degree would include both Associate and Bachelor degree offerings, along with the customization option, would provide employers with a unique and flexible way to meet workforce education requirements.

Thank you for making me aware of this opportunity and please make me aware of anything I can do to support efforts to bring this program to Kokomo.

Best regards,

Charles E. Sparks
President/CEO
March 12, 2014

Dr. Andy Schaffer
Associate Dean
Purdue University College of Technology
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Dear Dr. Schaffer:

Please accept this letter of correspondence as an expression of our appreciation for the discussions surrounding the Technology Integration degree program and the “create your own degree” program offerings and their transferability with Ivy Tech. We at the Chamber support education and training for our citizens and value the opportunities presented at our Purdue University College of Technology.

These kinds of programs are exactly what we need to help prepare students, citizens and employees for modern day technology. These degrees can help not only the employers in our region to create skill sets that are unique to their business needs but also help attract new employers to our area. We know that businesses look for communities that have tools in place to potentially help train their people.

Associate and Bachelor degrees are needed in our area to serve both entry-level and long-term credential needs. It is important to have solutions for people at all places on the training curve.

Thank you for interest in expanding and growing your programs in our community.

Sincerely,

Amy Oder Holtzhausen
President/CEO

33 South 7th Street, Richmond, IN 47374 Phone 765-962-1511 Fax 765-966-0882 www.wcareachamber.org
March 10, 2014

Andy Schaffer
Associate Dean
Purdue University of Technology

Dear Mr. Schaffer,

On behalf of the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County I would like to express my strong support for the addition of the Associate and Bachelor of Science Degrees of Technology Integration currently being proposed by the Purdue University College of Technology in Richmond. Our future as a region requires individuals who can adapt and compete in a rapidly changing and globally competitive business environment. The continued development of the educational opportunities for our workforce is critical to the ongoing development of business in our region. Our ability to attract and retain companies in our region is enhanced by our ability to have a high quality and highly skilled workforce.

From an economic development standpoint the training opportunities that already exist in Wayne County are a great asset. However, to be able to show clients that there is the availability of a customizable degree option based on the unique training needs of a company or an industry would be incredibly valuable to our efforts to market Wayne County to prospects.

In addition, there is a demonstrable value in earning a degree that is customized to our employer’s needs. Students who are able to take advantage of a degree program they know will be valued by employers will be more willing to seek higher education opportunities leading to increased degree attainment and the increased skill level of our workforce. Further, advanced skills will lead to increased wages and improvement in the quality of life of Wayne County residents.

The proposed degree program at the Purdue University College of Technology in Richmond can be an important tool in our efforts to increase the skill level of our workforce and increase our ability to be competitive in attracting and retaining businesses. Please give consideration to the request by the Purdue College of Technology to add the Associate and Bachelor’s Degrees of Technology Integration to curriculum at the Richmond campus. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Valerie Shaffer
President

Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County, Indiana • 500 South A St., Suite 2, Richmond, IN 47374, United States • Phone 765.966.4769 • Fax 765.966.8956 • www.edwc.com
March 5, 2014

Mr. Andy Schaffer  
Associate Dean  
Purdue University, College of Technology

Dear Mr. Schaffer:

There are several reasons I am proud to be on the Advisory Board at Purdue Richmond. The most important for me is that the regional campuses allow students that, for one reason or another, cannot go to Lafayette, the ability to get a Purdue education.

Another important reason is that the degree programs can be tailored to the needs of the regional employers and allow the students to obtain skills needed in the area. The Technology Integration Degree allows the flexibility needed to customize the curriculum to meet local needs and still allows the student to obtain a valuable Purdue degree. Many employers, as mine did, will reimburse the students the cost of classes they believe will improve their skills and job performance. This is a win-win for students and employers.

I encourage Purdue to develop the Technology Integration degree programs that meet the above important criteria.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jon Odom
Dr. Andy Shaffer  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana

Dr. Shaffer:

As president of the Knox County Development Corporation, I am very excited and pleased to learn of Purdue University's efforts to offer the new Technology Integration degree at Vincennes University. Through daily contact with local industry employers, I am made aware of the critical need to match our education offering to existing industry needs. The component of the Technology Integration degree that does just that will be very well received by not only industries in Knox County, but throughout southwest Indiana and beyond.

Please keep me informed as to progress, and how the Knox County Development Corporation might assist in making this much needed degree a reality.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Gentry  
President

GLG/bl