

# Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Academic Annual Report

Department of Electronics & Computer Technology

## Year in Review

### Accomplishments

**As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year that will contribute to this effort? [Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.]**

At present our Department is in a 2-year review cycle of its Computer Hardware Technology Program. The Department has surveyed its senior-level students and its Industrial Advisory Board for input on possible changes to this program. During the past year the ECT Department has reviewed/revised articulation agreements with IVY TECH and Vincennes University. During the past year the ECT Department has completed the development and implementation phase for distance offering of all 3rd and 4th year courses. This work completes our effort to make sure that we can offer a true distance-based degree completion program.

### Research and Scholarship

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship that is focused primarily on contributions to practice and discipline-based scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

The ECT Department has increased its scholarly contributions during the 2005 year. The Department continues to move forward in the areas of grant writing and professional publication.

### Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

**What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?**

For grants and contracts, the ECT Department is moving to do more in this arena. This has not been an area in which the department traditionally excelled. Off campus professional service is an area where faculty continue to be involved, as technologists the faculty often provide consulting activities aimed at business and industry.

### Teaching

**We would like to highlight innovative approaches to teaching. Has your department developed any pedagogies or practices you'd like to share with us? Please describe briefly.**

The ECT Department has developed a web-based 3rd and 4th year degree completion program. This program allows students who have associate degrees or university-level work to finish their degree. The ECT Department has a distance-based master's program. The ECT Department is a strong proponent of experiential learning. Our undergraduate programs are approximately 80% laboratory based.

## Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

### **What have been your greatest challenges in scheduling courses to meet student needs this year? How were you able to overcome them?**

The department offers courses at the undergraduate, master, and doctoral levels. This creates difficulty in scheduling and in overall faculty load. A multi-year plan for scheduling has been implemented to offset some of the issues. The department has begun to offer some of its courses on an alternating semester basis. And although this helps to alleviate having courses with lower enrollments when offered each semester, it has also increased the problem of students not being able to obtain courses when they need them.

## Outreach

### **What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)**

The ECT Department presently has articulation agreements with Ivy Tech State College, Vincennes University, Danville Area Community College, and Lakeland Community College. The ECT Department regularly participates in various programs established by the College of Technology such as: College Tech Prep, Hands on High Tech, and Tech Trek. These programs have been established to encourage high school student awareness and enrollment in technology-based disciplines and middle school student awareness of technical education and future careers.

## **Strategic Initiatives**

### Development Activities

#### **What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?**

The ECT Department has promoted the ECT Scholarship Initiative, in order to at some point in the future offer a departmental-based scholarship to an undergraduate student. Since its inception this initiative has added several thousand dollars. The ECT Department has agreed to use various equipment funds to support the development efforts of tenure/tenure-track faculty in order to support them as they pursue future funding opportunities for research, grants, and scholarships.

### Experiential Learning

#### **We are interested in hearing about any innovative approaches you might have taken to incorporate experiential learning into your course or departmental work this year.**

In our most recent accreditation review (2004) the Department included letters, email, etc. from graduates expressing how their program helped them attain the position they hold. Included in that document is also evidence of internships by ECT students (see Appendix D4 “Internships” of Book 2 Accreditation Self-Study Report 2004).

## **Future Goals**

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#### **The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be recognized as a Pre-eminent University?**

The ECT Department has always been laboratory/experiential based in its curricula. In order to

continue to offer attractive programs, the ECT Department has made use of Industrial Advisory Board information, student-based information, and other sources to implement changes to its Computer Hardware Technology program. The Department will begin a 2-year review cycle of its Electronics Technology program the fall 2006.