

Memo

To: School of Education Policy Council
 From: Ted Frick
 Chair, Department of Instructional Systems Technology
 Subject: Moving the Adult Education Distance Master's program and related
 Certificates from the School of Continuing Studies to the IST Department
 Date: February 2, 2012

In May, 2011, as it became clear that the School of Continuing Studies was going to be closed, IST faculty approached Dean Gerardo Gonzalez with the possibility of moving the Adult Education Distance Master's program into the IST Department. Subsequently, the School of Education Dean's office spent a great deal of time with President McRobbie's office and the Office of the Provost to determine if they could help make it happen financially. The President agreed that the IST department in the School of Education would be an appropriate home for the Adult Education degree and has committed funding to help support the transition.

The Adult Education Master's degree is an already approved program. This is not a new program, nor are we proposing to change anything about this program at present. The curriculum will not change.

From the Adult Education website, the program is described as follows:

The Master of Science in Adult Education program provides a practitioner-oriented master's degree for individuals interested in working with adult learners in a variety of fields, including continuing professional education, corporate training and development, postsecondary education, or adult basic education, among others.

Established in 1946, it is one of the nation's oldest adult education programs. It was converted to an online format in 1998 and offers the flexibility needed by working professionals.

The program is designed to help professionals ... teach adult learners better. It provides a strong background in adult learning and program planning, as well as the diverse philosophical, theoretical, and historical contexts of adult education in the United States. It emphasizes purposeful, active learning and the development of reflexive practitioners who apply theory to practice and, in turn, practice to theory.

The School of Continuing Studies offers the current Adult Education M.S. degree and two professional development certificates in: 1) Distance Education; and 2) Career Advisor Certification. These are the three programs we propose to move into the IST department.

Initial conversations between faculty from both program areas began in the summer of 2011 to jointly explore such a move, and have continued to the present. Both faculty groups met together in an all-day retreat on December 15 to further discuss the logistics of this move. In addition, Adult Education faculty are now attending IST department meetings this spring semester, 2012.

There is unanimous support from both Adult Education faculty and IST faculty to proceed with this move. There is also clear support from both Dean Gerardo Gonzalez (School of Education) and Dean Danny Callison (School of Continuing Studies) for this move. Elizabeth Boling, as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in the School of Education, has also been exploring the steps that would have to be taken to officially move the degree from the School of Continuing Studies to IST.

A clear picture is now emerging. The Dean's Office has worked out the financial support necessary, and understands the process of moving the Adult Education Master's degree and related certificate

programs. IST and Adult Education faculty have considered how these programs would be integrated into IST department.

Logistically, the transition should not be disruptive to either IST or Adult Education distance programs. The same Adult Education faculty will be teaching the same courses as before, at a distance. Students majoring in Adult Education will continue their course work at a distance. Since the Adult Education Master's program and related certificate programs are taught entirely at a distance over the Internet, there is no additional transportation burden being placed on students or faculty. The change is administrative, not programmatically substantive.

The primary advantages to this move are viewed as follows:

- Students from both IST and Adult Education programs will benefit from the synergy created by this integration. Students majoring in IST distance programs (Master's, Ed.D. and certificate) will have relevant choices for courses in Adult Education to serve as electives and minors. Likewise, students majoring in Adult Education will have relevant choices for distance courses in IST to serve as their electives.
- Administrative costs and unnecessary redundancy will be reduced. There will be one chair of the IST department to oversee both Adult Education and IST programs. Currently, Adult Education has its own chair, who will then become their program coordinator. Instead of two distinct administrative support systems, these functions will be absorbed by the School of Education's Graduate Studies—e.g., admissions, student record keeping, etc. Likewise, technology support for the distance education programs will be provided through current staff in the IST department and School of Education Technology Services—e.g., website maintenance, and technical support for faculty.
- Both IST and Adult Education distance programs can be jointly marketed through IUconnectED: <http://iuconnected.iu.edu/>. This will benefit both program areas. Adult Education is better known to the general public than is Instructional Systems Technology, yet both programs focus on ways to teach adult learners. IST has long been recognized worldwide as one of the top programs of its kind. We expect this synergy to benefit enrollments in both distance program areas.
- Last, and most important, both program areas will help address the unemployment situation that currently exists in Indiana. Many people who are out of work need to learn new skills and knowledge to become competitive in the job market. Both IST and Adult Education programs prepare their graduates to design and develop training programs for adult learners who need further education to improve their employability. Because these programs areas are offered at a distance, this is a cost-effective way to deliver them. Students do not need to physically move in order to learn this way.

Further information about IST and Adult Education distance programs and certificates is available on their current websites:

- <http://education.indiana.edu/ist>
- <http://scs.indiana.edu/graduate/index.shtml>

As part of the planned move, these two websites will be seamlessly integrated with IUconnectED, the central location at IU for distance learners to pursue programs in education. This will further help prospective students to find a distance learning program that will fit their needs—compared to a distributed and confusing array of alternatives in various locations at IU.