

# Piedmont Community College

## Business Studies and Emerging Technologies

### Executive Summary

The Executive Summary for the Computer Information Technology and Computer Programming Review is submitted below. The report focuses on strengths, challenges, recommendations, and a plan of action. The comprehensive report is complete. Members of the committee were:

Sherry Stewart	Dean, Business Studies and Emerging Technologies
Tina Bryant-Allen	Director, Research and Institutional Effectiveness
Belvie Morant	Counselor/Instructor, HRD/WIA
Faith Harris	Instructor, Information Systems
Paul Phillips	Instructor, Information Systems
Randy Parker	Instructor, Information Systems
Donna Smith	Instructor, Information Systems
Michael Corbett	Instructor, Director, Film and Video Production Technology

### STRENGTHS

Strengths identified by the committee and external sources such as advisory committees, employers of our graduates, employer's surveys, and student surveys (class and instructor evaluations):

- The instructors are experienced.
- The Advisory Committee members are very knowledgeable and come from the field-networking, programming, web, and project management.
- Hardware and software are up-to-date.
- Academic tech support is good.
- There are a variety of LRC resources.
- Student comments from surveys are positive.
- Several sections of CIS 110 have been added to the schedule.
- Scholarships and financial aid are available for students.

### CHALLENGES

Challenges identified by the committee, external sources, and students:

- The completion rates are low and are also low overall in the NCCCS.
- The rigor of courses is difficult for the students.
- Teaching students to be independent learners and to think critically for the global workforce is a challenge.
- There are few to no students who can tutor.
- More F2F instruction is needed with limited computer room space.
- Finding credentialed CIS 110 instructors is a challenge.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to improve the programs:

- Continue to promote at community events, public schools, in GED and Huskins classes.
- Continue to make flyers, posters, and post information about programs on the campus monitors.
- Include more information in the brochures about IT programs.
- Offer summer camps.
- Update IT website, include transfer options on website and include web address on instructors' emails.
- Inform students of scholarships
- Inform students of transfer options.
- Assign advisors.
- Track students to keep them on target for graduation.
- Track withdrawals.
- Continue to offer tutoring during office hours.
- Set up study groups.
- Offer more hybrid and evening courses.
- Increase advisory committee members.

## ACTION PLAN

The table below addresses the action plan:

Item	Plan	Responsibility	Timeline
Enrollment Numbers	Promote programs at community events, public and private schools, in GED and Huskins classes. Post information about programs on the campus monitors. Offer summer camps. Include more information in brochure about IT programs.	Randy Parker, Paul Phillips, Donna Smith, Faith Harris and Sherry Stewart	Fall, 2010
IT Website	Include information about the IT programs such as studying tips, job opportunities, successful alumni, scholarship information, and articulation agreements on the IT website. IT web address to be included on faculty emails.	Randy Parker, Paul Phillips, Donna Smith, and Faith Harris	Fall, 2010
Advising and Retention	Assign advisors. Track advisees and track withdrawals. Set up study groups. Offer tutoring during office hours. Include office hours and VOHs on syllabi. Announce office hours and VOHs to students.	Randy Parker, Paul Phillips, Donna Smith and Faith Harris	Fall, 2010
Course Offerings/ Space	Offer more hybrid and evening courses.	Sherry Stewart	Fall, 2010
IT Advisory Committee	Increase and diversify Advisory Committee members.	Randy Parker and Sherry Stewart	Spring, 2011