

**TOPIC:                    PROPOSAL TO OFFER A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR  
DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO,  
BOULDER**

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**I.        SUMMARY**

The University of Colorado, Boulder (UCB) has submitted a program proposal to offer a Master of Science in Information and Communication Technology for Development (MS-ICTD). This unique degree program will teach students to use information, communication and technology to enable sustainable development while analyzing issues of globalization, equity, gender, health, entrepreneurship, and poverty. This program is offered by the Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society Institute (ATLAS) at the University of Colorado, Boulder. It is approved by the University's Board of Regents and is consistent with UCB's role and mission.

**II.        BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from the University of Colorado, Boulder's proposal:

This degree program will prepare students for careers in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to advance people and communities in developing nations, and in underserved and impoverished areas of developed nations. The MS-ICTD programs seek to train individuals who can help bridge the gap between those who enjoy the advantages of the networked information society, and those with the greatest potential to benefit from these advantages, if issues of access, social equity, sustainability, and appropriate design and distribution are addressed.

**ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

The MS-ICTD degree supports the role and mission of UCB. The statutory mission states:

*The Boulder campus of the University of Colorado shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admissions standards. The Boulder campus of the University of Colorado shall offer a comprehensive array of undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degree programs. C.R.S. 23-20-101(1)(a).*

**EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND**

Knowledge of the proposed program has spread by word of mouth. To date, ATLAS has received inquiries from 80 individuals, of whom 45 have indicated that they will apply for admission if and when the program is approved. Many of these perspective students' employers offer education benefits that would support their enrollment. Initial enrollment for year one is projected to be ten students. Entering cohort size is expected to grow at a rate of about ten students per year conservatively. Program demand may exceed capacity in a short time.

#### **DUPLICATION/SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE STATE**

Although ICTD is emerging as a formal discipline at several universities internationally, only a few ICTD related initiatives exist in the United States. These initiatives consist primarily of courses and faculty research collaborations. *There is at present no other professional graduate degree program in ICT for Development offered in the nation.* The ATLAS MS-ICTD will therefore be a national exemplar for such programs. ATLAS and the University of Colorado at Boulder are uniquely positioned to lead national efforts in this developing field. The MS-ICTD program will build upon existing on-campus expertise and strengths in many of the core areas that define the discipline, and will provide a focal point for the growing number of CU Boulder faculty who are engage in research and teaching in areas relevant to ICTD.

#### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

The Department staff has reviewed this proposed program to ensure that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. §23-5-129(6) (b). The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve the MS-ICTD to be offered by the University of Colorado, Boulder.**

#### **V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request

#### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-5-129(6) (b)