Program Review Final Report

for

Computer Engineering Technology

Submitted to

Dr. Eric McKeithan, President (and serving as interim Vice President of Instruction)

by

Program Review Committee Chair:
Robert Philpott, Dean of Vocational/Technical Education

Program Review Team:
Greg Vandergriff, Lead Instructor Computer Engineering Technology
Shawn Russell, Engineering Department Chair
Amanda Lee, Associate Vice President of Instructional Operations
Pat Hogan, Business Technologies Department Chair
Melissa Watson, Lead Instructor Computer Information Systems Technology
Matthew Thomas, Career and Job Placement Specialist
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant to the VP of Institutional Effectiveness

Signatures:

Lead Instructor: 

Instructional Dean: 

Dept. Chair: 

6/2/10
I. List of Team Members

Greg Vandergriff, Lead Instructor Computer Engineering Technology
Shawn Russell, Engineering Department Chair
Robert Philpott, Dean Technical/Vocational Education
Amanda Lee, Associate Vice President of Instructional Operations
Pat Hogan, Business Technologies Department Chair
Melissa Watson, Lead Instructor Computer Information Systems Technology
Matthew Thomas, Career and Job Placement Specialist
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant to the VP of Institutional Effectiveness

II. Analysis of Results:

A. Strengths

Program enrollment is strong and growing with good diversity in the program.

The graduation rate is good and increasing as enrollment increases.

The program offers an AAS degree and three certificates which provides many opportunities for students.

Huskins classes offered at the high schools are well attended and a good recruitment tool for the program.

Instructors are enthusiastic, professional and talented, and maintain certifications and participate in other professional development activities to remain current in their field.

Equipment and software are up-to-date. This keeps the program current with employment trends.

On the Graduating Student Opinion Survey, 87% of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the quality of the program. The remaining 13% either omitted the question or marked more than one answer and could not be counted.

On the Currently Enrolled Student Survey, most student comments indicated they are enthusiastic about the program, 81.8% of respondents indicated they are satisfied with the quality of instruction and the overall program. The remaining 19.8% expressed some dissatisfaction with the program.
Most of the program objectives in Strategic Planning on Line (SPOL) are student learning outcomes and assessments for the objectives are made by individuals other than the instructor responsible for the outcome.

CFCC has an annual license for MSDNAA software which allows students to use the software they use in class on their home computers at no cost to the student.

The CET department has a Novell Academic Partnership with Novell, This allows us to train students in the operating systems and other software that Novell sells. We have been a Novell Silver Partner for several years. We are one of only two schools in the state to still train on Novell.

B. Weaknesses

Even though a student can earn a degree in the evening, it takes the student longer because some courses are not taught every semester and students must wait until the course is on the schedule.

On the Currently Enrolled Student Survey, students requested more on-line and hybrid classes and a need for qualified tutors.

There are no part-time faculty in the program and if funding was available for part-time faculty, more classes could be scheduled during the evening hours.

C. Opportunities

East Carolina University is a great transfer option for CET graduates. ECU has an on-line program and accepts most of the CET credits in their program which allows graduates to remain in Wilmington while getting their four-year degree.

If a testing center was set up at CFCC, it would meet a community need as IT people must travel in order to test for needed certifications.

Encourage students to take certifications before graduating as this would improve their employability.

Threats

Software changes so rapidly within the industry that budget constraints could prevent the purchase of new software during the next budget cycle.

Faculty members must maintain certifications to remain current in their field. Certifications can be costly and faculty have to pay for these certifications out of pocket. There are no professional development funds available at this time to help faculty members with these costs.
One faculty member is retiring and this could cause undue hardship on the remaining faculty if a replacement can’t be found in a timely manner.

III. Committee Recommendations

The team recommended that the college:

Continue program with recommendations.

Continue to stay up to date with equipment and software by requesting needed equipment and software at the annual budget hearings.

Seek funds for professional development to help faculty with cost of staying current with needed certifications.

Research the possibility of using part-time faculty to offer more classes in the evenings so that a degree can be more easily obtained by the evening students.

Research the possibility of offering more on-line and hybrid courses.

Review again in five years.