Getting Information Systems Programs Classified as STEM

Panel
Mark Srite
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
msrite@uwm.edu

Ranga Chandrasekaran
The University of Illinois at Chicago
ranga@uic.edu

Lakshmi Iyer
Appalachian State University
iyerLs@appstate.edu

Tim Kayworth
Baylor University
Timothy_Kayworth@baylor.edu

Jason Thatcher
Clemson University
jason.b.thatcher@gmail.com

Mary Jones
University of North Texas
Mary.Jones@unt.edu

ABSTRACT

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. This is a designation that we’ve heard about in higher education, particularly in North America and the United States, for several years now, and programs that fall under STEM can receive benefits beyond what others receive. So, you may be thinking, “I teach technology, and my school’s degree program is information systems, information technology, business intelligence, or some technology related major. So, it must be STEM, right?” Not necessarily. To be classified as STEM a program must fit a special set of pre-defined criteria. This panel is designed to help schools determine if their programs are a good fit for STEM designation and if so, how to navigate the steps toward gaining that designation.

Keywords
STEM, CIP Codes, Designation.

PANEL OVERVIEW

This panel is of importance to the AMCIS community because of the benefits from STEM designation in the U.S. and North America, which are a large component of AMCIS attendance. These include being qualified for specific state or federal grants to support both curriculum and research as well as being more attractive to students. One benefit that international students in particular gain is a longer Optional Practical Training (OPT) period. Many information systems degrees in schools in this segment reside in Colleges of Business and have a CIP code that is not recognized as STEM. This can cause them to lose enrollment to other computer related programs on campus that do have the designation, particularly in computer science and information schools. In addition, the AIS STEM Taskforce is an AIS based initiative, thus is an appropriate topic for an AMCIS panel.

OBJECTIVES

1. To gain a better understanding of what STEM is and how information systems, business analytics, and other related degree programs fit into this designation;
2. To gain a better understanding of the benefits of having STEM designation for degree programs;
3. To learn what constitutes formal STEM designation (e.g., CIP codes, U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognition for purposes of OPT, etc.);
4. To learn how to begin the process of getting degree programs formally STEM designated.
PANEL LAYOUT/DESIGN

The overall approach will be to set up a panel with a panel moderator and 4-5 panel members from a variety of university types (public/private; large/small; research focused/teaching focused, etc…) who have STEM designated degree programs and who have experience with garnering this designation. Each member will speak for about 10 minutes on their experience with STEM to a broad view of the objectives above. For example, one might talk about what STEM is, another about benefits they have realized being STEM designated, and others about steps they took to garner STEM designation. Then the floor would be opened to questions from the audience, fielded by the panel moderator.

PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Mark Srite – Moderator and Panel Co-organizer
Lubar School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Dr. Srite is one of the Co-Chairs of the AIS STEM Task Force. His institution recently received STEM designation for their Master’s Program in Information Technology Management.

Ranga Chandrasekaran – Panelist
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Dr. Chandrasekaran is Associate Professor and Director of Master of Science in Management Information Systems. His institution has received STEM designation for Master of Science in MIS and Master of Science in Business Analytics.

Lakshmi Iyer – Panelist
Walker College of Business, Appalachian State University
Dr. Iyer is Director of the Master’s in Applied Data Analytics Programs in the Walker College of Business at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. Prior to this she served as the Director of Graduate Programs in Information Systems and Supply Chain Management at UNC-Greensboro. She is a member of the AIS STEM Taskforce, STEM coordinator for the American Association of University Women, Greensboro Branch, and her institution has received STEM designation for undergraduate and masters programs.

Tim Kayworth - Panelist
Hankamer School of Business, Baylor University
Dr. Kayworth is Professor and the former Chair of the Management Information Systems Department at Baylor University. While he was department chair, his institution received STEM designation for the Master of Science in Information Systems and the Ph.D. in Information Systems.

Jason Thatcher – Panelist
College of Business, Clemson University
Dr. Thatcher is Professor of Information Systems and President of AIS. In his role as AIS President, he will present the vision of the AIS relating to STEM designation.

Mary C. Jones – Panel Co-organizer
College of Business, University of North Texas
Dr. Jones is Professor and Chair of the Information Technology & Decision Sciences Department. She is co-chair of the AIS STEM Task Force. Her institution has recently received STEM designation for the Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analytics and Master of Science in Business Analytics.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

A Table at the front of the room able to seat the moderator and four panelists. An overhead projector and screen. Chairs for forty participants.