

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**FEASIBILITY STUDY OF REGENT UNIVERSITY GRADUATE OFFERINGS IN WESTERN IOWA**

**Actions Requested:** Receive the feasibility study of Regent University graduate offerings in Western Iowa. Direct the Board Office to submit this report to the general assembly and the governor by December 15, 2005.

**Executive Summary:** House File 868 directed the Board of Regents “to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a graduate school in western Iowa in cooperation with other public or private institutions of higher learning and to submit a report to the general assembly and the governor regarding the findings and recommendations of the study by December 15, 2005.”

**Details on Study:**

- ◆ In Spring 2005, the Council of Provosts constituted an inter-institutional team<sup>1</sup> consisting of Regent university and Board Office representatives to undertake the feasibility study.
- ◆ The objectives of the study were (1) to identify the current programmatic offerings in western Iowa; (2) to assess the extent to which current programmatic offerings in western Iowa are meeting needs for graduate education; (3) to determine if there are significant unmet needs for graduate education in western Iowa; and (4) to consider the feasibility of addressing unmet needs through the establishment of a new graduate school in western Iowa.
- ◆ The team approached this effort by reviewing existing graduate offerings provided by the Regent universities through the Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City and the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center in Council Bluffs and assessing unmet educational needs in western Iowa.
- ◆ Through the centers, area residents can access a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs provided by the Regent universities. Furthermore, the centers assist the Regent universities by providing regional promotion of programs and distribution of registration and scheduling materials and information.
- ◆ Currently, the Regent universities provide extensive offerings at all levels, including certificate, baccalaureate, endorsement, and graduate programs through the two centers. Program offerings are available through a variety of media, including the ICN, through Iowa Public Television, guided independent study, face to face, and through the web. (A list of current programmatic offerings provided by the Regent universities through the centers is included in Attachment 1.)

---

<sup>1</sup> The team participants were SUI – Chet Rzonca (Dean of Continuing Education) and John Keller (Dean of the Graduate College); ISU – Bill Tysseling (Director of Continuing Education and Communications Systems) and David Holger (Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate College) (Chair); UNI – Susan Koch (Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate College) and James Bodensteiner (Acting Dean of Continuing Education); and Board Office – Diana Gonzalez (Policy and Operations Officer).

- ☑ The Regent universities offer two Ph.D. programs, 27 master's programs, and 15 graduate certificate programs through the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center in Council Bluffs. A study conducted in FY 2002 concluded that, although enrollment in many of the programs offered at the Center was minimal, the Regent universities were meeting the need for graduation education in the Council Bluffs area that would otherwise be unmet. During 2004-05, 530 Regent students were served through the Center.
- ☑ The Regent universities offer two Ph.D. programs, 51 master's programs, and 11 graduate certificate programs through the Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City. While enrollment at the Tri-State Graduate Center has been marginal in some programs, the Regent universities are providing important offerings to help meet the expressed graduate education needs of northwest Iowa. During 2004-05, 342 Regent students were served through the Center.
- ◇ The team obtained background information from Representative Clarence Hoffman (sponsor of HF 868), feedback from the Office of Woodbury County Rural Economic Development, and programmatic information from the Regent universities and the Board Office.
- ◇ The Regent universities and the regional study centers regularly survey constituencies in the Sioux City and Council Bluffs areas regarding emerging needs for baccalaureate and graduate education; new programs are introduced to meet such identified needs. Using the results of these studies, the team determined that, currently, no new unmet needs for specific graduate programs in western Iowa have been identified.
- ◇ The team determined that the most feasible way to provide sustainable graduate programs in western Iowa is through the existing centers in Council Bluffs and Sioux City. While the enrollment in many programs offered by the centers is marginally sustainable, the Regent universities have made a commitment to providing these programs at the centers because they are able to achieve some resource efficiencies. The programs delivered through the centers will be expanded to address specific unmet needs for graduate education as those needs arise. A new center in western Iowa would be cost-prohibitive and would likely not expand the level of offerings currently available.
- ◇ Furthermore, program and course information about distance education opportunities provided by the Regent universities is available on the following website – <http://www.iride.org>.
- ◇ The team completed its feasibility study and presented its report to the Council of Provosts in October 2005.
- ◇ This report will be submitted to the general assembly and the governor by the required due date of December 15, 2005.

**PROGRAM OFFERINGS BY THE REGENT UNIVERSITIES AT THE  
SOUTHWEST IOWA REGENTS RESOURCE CENTER (SWIRCC) AND  
THE TRI-STATE GRADUATE CENTER (TSGC)<sup>1</sup>**

**GRADUATE LEVEL**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Family and Consumer Science (Leadership Academy)	Ph.D.	ISU	SWIRRC
Food Service and Lodging Management	Ph.D.	ISU	SWIRRC
Agriculture	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Agronomy	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Communication Education	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Community and Regional Planning	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Computer Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Curriculum and Instructional Technology	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Early Childhood Education	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Early Childhood Special Education	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Educational Leadership	Masters	UNI	TSGC
Educational Leadership – Principalship	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Educational Technology	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Electrical Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Elementary Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
English as a Second Language	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Family and Consumer Sciences	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Family and Consumer Sciences (Leadership Academy)	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Fam. & Consumer Sciences with specialization in Fam. Financial Planning	Masters	ISU	TSGC
Family Financial Planning	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Gerontology	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Library and Information Science	Masters	SUI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Literacy	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Mechanical Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Middle Level Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Music Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Nursing	Masters	SUI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Development	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Administration	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Health	Masters	SUI	SWIRRC
School Library Media Studies	Masters	UNI	TSGC
School Mathematics	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Science Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Social Work	Masters	SUI	TSGC
Systems Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Advanced Studies – Superintendency	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Advanced Studies Certificate in the Superintendency	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Dietetics Communication and Counseling	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Dietetics Management	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Environmental Health	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Family Financial Planning	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Financial Counselor Certification	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Gerontology	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Information Assurance	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Power Systems Engineering	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Health	Certificate	SUI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Management	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Community College Certification	Endorsement	UNI	SWIRRC
Driver Education	Endorsement	UNI	SWIRRC
Superintendency Endorsement Program	Endorsement	UNI	TSGC

**UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Bachelor of Liberal Studies	Baccalaureate	ISU, SUI, UNI	SWIRRC
Criminology	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Environmental Health	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Financial Counselor Certification	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC

<sup>1</sup>Some programs may have a residency requirement.