IT Strategic Plan FY2013
Vision Statement

In Illinois, IT = ISU

Mission Statement

Through excellence in education and research, we develop highly competent professionals who contribute to and succeed in the rapidly evolving field of information technology.

IT Strategic Goals

1. IT provides premier undergraduate programs combining theory and practice.

2. IT provides graduate programs that have a statewide, national, and international reputation for excellence.

3. IT maintains statewide, national, and international recognition for research and scholarship.

4. IT develops outreach initiatives that benefit the public and private sectors.

5. IT provides state-of-the-art environments for learning and research.

6. IT develops and maintains meaningful relationships with internal and external constituencies.

IT Strategies and Actions in support of Goals

1. IT provides premier undergraduate programs combining theory and practice.

   Strategy 1A: IT will maintain high-quality and up-to-date undergraduate programs

   Action1Aa: Continue to use accreditation and assessment to promote quality and rigor in undergraduate programs.
   Action1Ab: Conduct a 5-year curriculum review process to keep the programs up-to-date.
   Action1Ac: Map curriculum for all programs to identify improvement opportunities.
   Result: Action completed on February 24, 2012
   Action1Ad: Accomplish curricular work resulting from curricular mapping activity.
   Action 1Ae: Rework IS ECS sequence to allow other sequences to take introductory ECS course.
   Action 1Af: IT will develop 1-hour courses to teach students cutting edge technologies.
Strategy 1B: IT will maintain a commitment to the Honors Program and to undergraduate research.

Action1Ba: Recruit honors students.
Action1Bb: Engage 10% of the undergraduate students in grant and research activities.

Strategy 1C: IT will sustain a high-level of internship placements for IT students.

Action1Ca: Work with BIAC/TAB to maintain a database of internship providers, task postings and evaluations.
Action1Cb: Add a section of the website for internship opportunities.
Action1Cc: Expand international internships for students.
Action1Cd: Increase faculty involvement in the internship program.

Strategy 1D: IT will promote diverse educational opportunities as a means of broadening life experience and cross-cultural understanding for students and faculty.

Action1Da: Continue to establish international exchange programs
Action1Db: Continue writing grant proposals to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of underrepresented students
Action1Dc: Develop articulation agreements with minority institutions.
Action1De: Devise and implement strategies to recruit and retain underrepresented students.

Strategy 1E: IT will continue and expand participation in general education programs through curricula offerings.

Action1 Ea: Design a (General Education) recruitment course.

Strategy 1F: IT will continue to update ASPT policies to reward activities that promote a premiere undergraduate education experience.

Action1Fa: Continue to recognize and support faculty who engage in “scholarship of teaching and learning” projects.

Strategy 1G: IT will pursue alternate delivery of courses to meet global changes and market conditions.

Action1Ga: Continue to improve and expand the availability of online courses.
Action1Gb: Create online programs in high demand disciplines.

Strategy 1H: IT will maintain highly qualified faculty to teach state-of-the-art technologies in the classrooms.

Action1Ha: Encourage and support ongoing professional development activities.
Strategy 1I: IT will improve the quality of students in its majors.

Action 1Ia: Provide targeted recruiting for high-ACT and Honors students.
Action 1Ib: Re-direct (where possible) scholarship opportunities to attract high-quality incoming freshman.
Action 1Ic: Consider adjusting admission standards for incoming students.
Action 1Id: Advertise IT program to local community colleges and high-schools.

Strategy 1J: IT will enhance its support system for students.

Action 1Ja: Develop orientation materials for incoming students.
Action 1Jb: Explore approaches to improve instructor help for students.
Action 1Jc: Continue to support tutoring and debugging services.
Action 1Jd: Create an evaluation and quality improvement mechanism for IT advisement processes.

Strategy 1K: IT will work to instill professionalism and life-long learning in its students.

Action 1Ka: Continue to provide support to the IT student club.
Action 1Kb: Support and encourage student participation in registered IT student clubs and organizations, such as the ACM, AITP, ECS clubs and the UPE society.

2. IT provides graduate programs that have a statewide, national, and international reputation for excellence.

Strategy 2A: IT will continue to enhance its graduate programs.

Action 2Aa: Identify a core competency area within Computer Science and design a graduate sequence around it.
Action 2Ab: Continue to explore the possibility to establish a Master’s in Computer Science.
Action 2Ac: Continue to seek opportunities to establish a Ph.D. program.

Strategy 2B: IT will develop and deliver online programs in order to expand the cultural and demographic diversity of the student population.

Action 2Ba: Identify the programs/sequences/certificates for online offering.
Action 2Bb: Develop standards and practices for online courses.
Action 2Bc: Allocate resources and create a framework for converting the selected classes to online version.

Strategy 2C: IT will continue to establish international exchange programs to provide international exposure/experience for students.

Action 2Ca: Continue to identify potential international exchange universities and establish relationships.
Action 2Cb: Identify students who wish to participate in exchange program.
Action 2Cc: Implement first exchange of students.

Strategy 2D: IT will continue to attract high-quality domestic and international graduate students to its program.

Action 2Da: Develop new relationships with international universities.
Action 2Db: Devise a plan to compete for a higher level of graduate candidates.
Action 2Dc: Develop a recruitment plan that will increase the number of domestic students.
Action 2Dd: Increase the ratio of high quality domestic and underrepresented students.
Action 2De: Secure funds, such as assistantships, stipends, scholarships, federal work study and the like and expand outreach to local industry for funds to make our program more affordable and attractive.
Action 2Df: Develop a plan to better publicize the IT graduate program and certificates.
Action 2Dg: Expand the international recruitment plan in foreign countries.

Strategy 2E: IT will continue to promote the involvement of students in faculty research.

Action 2 Ea: Develop a plan to increase the number of students who take the thesis/project options instead of the course option.
Action 2Eb: Create standardized high-level guidelines for the quality of theses and projects. Identify model theses/projects that illustrate these guidelines.
Action 2Ec: Secure funds to support faculty and student conference attendance.
Action 2Ed: Create digital repository to host deliverables for all graduate projects and make them publicly accessible upon request.

Strategy 2F: IT will maintain the currency and relevancy of the programs.

Action 2Fa: Systematically review the graduate courses as stated in the IT Bylaws.
Action 2Fb: Establish connections with similar graduate programs, with the goal of keeping our program up-to-date and relevant.

Strategy 2G: Investigate a 5-year master’s program

3. IT maintains statewide, national, and international recognition for research and scholarship.

Strategy 3A: IT will strengthen available resources for scholarship, research, sabbatical leaves, grant writing, professional activities, and other faculty development opportunities.

Action 3Aa: Provide support and encourage sabbatical leaves for post-tenure faculty.
Action 3Ab: Create short-term research support and professional development opportunities for tenure-line faculty.
Action 3Ac: Increase travel funds for faculty and students.
Action 3Ad: Establish/increase funds for school level competitive grants and release time for external grant acquisition.
Action 3Ae: Develop an IT Colloquium.

Strategy 3B: IT will provide incentives and ongoing support for interdisciplinary and internal/external collaborative research projects.
Strategy 3C: IT will reward faculty through ASPT process for quality research and scholarship.

- Action 3Ca: Recognize faculty for disseminating research through peer-reviewed publications.
- Action 3Cb: Recognize faculty for securing internal and external grants.
- Action 3Cc: Recognize faculty for participation as officers, member of editorial teams, chairing conference sessions, reviewing research articles, etc., with state, national, and international conferences/journals.
- Action 3Cd: Recognize faculty for enabling graduate and undergraduate student participation in research.
- Action 3Ce: Explore ways to recognize faculty for different levels of contribution in research, teaching and service.

4. **IT develops outreach initiatives that benefit the public and private sectors.**

Strategy 4A: IT will utilize an IT Outreach Committee to be accountable for outreach activities and relationships with constituencies.

- Action 4Aa: Continue to have an annual celebration with departing grads.

Strategy 4B: IT will plan and implement events and activities for IT faculty and students to share expertise with the local and regional community.

- Action 4Ba: Invite University and local community members to attend IT colloquia.
- Action 4Bb: Create IT “speakers bureau” and promote to local community organizations and schools through CAIST.
- Action 4Bc: Continue to foster working partnerships with organizations interested in enterprise computing systems.
- Action 4Bd: Share information assurance and security and enterprise computing systems curricula with regional community colleges and other universities.
- Action 4Be: Develop a repository of projects from the community and local businesses for use in courses and/or individual student projects.
- Action 4Bf: Find funding and revive CyberCamp in some form.

Strategy 4C: IT will increase enrollment in the newly created graduate certificate programs.

- Action 4Ca: Advertise the graduate certificates.

Strategy 4D: IT will encourage dissemination of knowledge through popular press.

- Action 4Da: Update our entries on the university experts list.

5. **IT provides state-of-the-art environments for learning and research.**

Strategy 5A: IT will encourage its faculty and staff to explore and use current and emerging technologies.
Action 5Aa: Collaborate and participate on various college/university committees and technology groups.

Action 5Ab: Retain/hire the staff necessary to recommend, obtain, install, and maintain the facilities and infrastructure for faculty and student use.

Action 5Ac: Improve and increase IT laboratory and collaborative work spaces within Old Union.

Action 5Ad: Continue to allocate funds to support equipment and other technology-related purchases and maintenance.

Action 5Ae: Allocate resources to promote the IT brand/image (e.g., IT Banner outside the Old Union building).

6. **IT develops and maintains meaningful relationships with internal and external constituencies.**

**Strategy 6A:** IT will develop events and programs that encourage IT alumni participation and support.

Action 6Aa: Continue to solidify meaningful relationships through the Telecommunications Advisory Board and the Business and Industry Advisory Council.

Action 6Ab: Establish a consistent and systematic means of communication with all IT/ITK/ACS alumni.

Action 6Ac: Invite all or selected alumni to attend an event each year.

Action 6Ad: Devise methods to prepare current students to become active alumni.

Action 6Ae: Establish an annual reunion event for graduates who graduated, say, 20 years ago.

Action 6Af: Seek support from selected alumni to establish endowed scholarships honoring Emeritus Faculty. (e.g., The Jan Cook or Dave Kephart Scholarship).

Action 6Ag: Seek support from corporate partners and alumni to establish an endowed professorship (or endowed chair).

**Strategy 6B:** IT will build closer ties to local large corporate IT users and employers of our graduates.

Action 6Ba: Initiate an annual Business Round Table where IT corporate leaders are brought together to discuss and share thoughts on prominent IT issues, including private and public forums.

Action 6Bb: Devise informal methods for IT Director and faculty to interact with corporate IT leaders, e.g., golf outings, presentations, receptions, luncheons, etc.

Action 6Bc: Create a program to encourage faculty to bring in guest speakers, and a speaker database for faculty to connect with potential speakers.

**Strategy 6C:** Determine high potential focus area(s) to attract corporate, governmental, and public interest.

Action 6Ca: Develop topics courses on emerging topics in IT.

**Strategy 6D:** IT will develop a marketing plan to promote better public awareness of IT programs and quality, and attract high-quality students and faculty.

Action 6Da: Update IT brochures and program summaries.
Action6Db: Create promotional items that implant our vision (IT = ISU) and encourage student, alumni, and supporters “brand” identification with IT.

Action6Dc: Continue to update the IT website with the primary objective of attracting, informing and engaging students, faculty, alums, donors, and corporate partners.

Action6Dd: Determine ways to ensure that IT programs appear prominently in web searches (like Google) and college guides (like Petersons).

Action6De: Devise some state-wide method of advertising to raise our level of visibility (contest, commercials, billboards, news release, etc.)

Action6Df: Develop set of promotional videos of faculty, students, employers, alumni, etc. for use on website, YouTube, FaceBook, etc.

Action6Dg: Adjust the Assistant to the Director position to focus more on outreach.

Action6Dh: Establish an IT presence in Twitter and other social media.

Action6Di: Allocate resources to promote the IT brand/image (e.g., IT Banner outside the Old Union building).

Action6Dj: Reach out to HS advisors, ISU tour guides to provide a better understanding of what we do.

Strategy 6E: Develop a formal IT Awards Reception for students, employers, donors, and parents.

Action6Ea: Recognize local companies.

Action6Eb: Encourage students to recognize faculty.

Action6Ec: Have clubs report on the year’s activities.