



January 11, 2010

To: CAEIAE Application Evaluators

From: Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Management

Re: Metropolitan State University's application to become designated as a Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (CAEIAE)


Advance IT Minnesota (formerly called the Center for Strategic IT and Security) is a state center of excellence in IT and security and is one of four such centers created by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system. The Governor of Minnesota through MnSCU funded the creation of this center at Metropolitan State University (MSU) in 2005 after considering the strength of information technology, information and computer science, information assurance, and management of information systems curriculum at the university and the center's two primary partners, Inver Hills Community College and Minneapolis Community and Technical College.


Since its creation, Advance IT Minnesota has helped:

- Align curriculum with industry needs through a Faculty Council, and build relationships between institutional and industry partners.
- Initiate and support IT projects related to program and course development through an annual peer and industry reviewed application process.
- Connect students and alumni with employers and network with working professionals.
- Fund and manage faculty, student and industry events, including,
  - Symposium on Business Information Security (SoBIS 2005)
  - Annual Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (every year since 2007)
  - Regular OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project) meetings for faculty and students
  - Faculty, Student and Industry event: IT Security – The Future Together (planned 04/2010)

Advance IT Minnesota is also becoming a prominent source across MnSCU for campus-based information assurance assessments, training and implementation. Please visit <http://ia.advanceitmn.org> and the rest of the portal to get more information about the center. As Deans of our respective colleges, we are fully in support of this application and feel that the presence of Advance IT Minnesota ensures that designation of MSU as a CAEIAE will be fully utilized and strongly benefit our programs, students and external constituent groups (ie., business, government, non profit organizations).

In anticipation of your favorable consideration,

  
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Gary Seiler, Dean  
College of Management  
Date

  
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