**Program Prioritization Criterion 10 Response for ATA in IT 2014**

Criterion 10: Opportunity Analysis of the Program

This criterion is meant to encourage innovative suggestions that have not previously been considered by the institution. This criterion gives each program the opportunity to explain how it could be improved and what resources or opportunities would allow that to happen.

1. In 500 words or less describe how the program could be enhanced or strengthened.

Since the ATA-IT program has a single instructor, program enhancement is based solely on how I can better do my job in teaching and program development.

1. Low student count. A recruiter needs to be assigned specifically to programs that are in community and work force demand.
2. If I am here to serve students, then I need the tools to do the best job that I am capable of. My classroom has very little "modern" teaching tools such as up-to-date computers and software or an adequate projection system.
3. Hire a part time instructor to teach classes that are almost guaranteed to have a minimum of 6 students. This will make my 27-35 credits per quarter somewhat less and I can spend more time on developing the program.
4. Give careful consideration to the "other duties as assigned" in order to gage the impact on the teaching and learning processes that I am hired to do. 10% of each work week is assigned to mandatory activities. This prioritization process has used in excess of 43 hours of afterhours time.
5. Differentiate between administrative needs, institutional needs, and instructional needs, or as my young son once said, "Why do I have to wear mittens when Mom's hands get cold?"

2. In 500 words or less describe how this program is prepared to transform in new and innovative ways.

1. Create an AST Computer Science transfer degree. Basically only two more programming classes need to be developed to create this 2-yr degree. All of the other courses are already in the catalog. This will meet the first two years of WWU's computer science program.
2. Modify the current ATA-IT program to eliminate the computer and maintenance emphasis and replace it with a mobile apps program development emphasis.
3. Examine the possibility of a pre-engineering option as an entirely separate subset of the IT program. It would be heavy on the math and oriented toward a combination of mechanical and aeronautical engineering concepts. The current rocketry program provides an example of some of the things that can be done.

3. In 500 words or less describe the future outlook of the program?

1. Have a series of classrooms or a building that has space devoted to:
   1. computer lab
   2. electronics lab
   3. small tool workshop that has hand and power tools, and 3D printing capability
2. Have the infrastructure and instructional support to become more involved in NASA, NOAA, NSF senior design projects
3. Identify potential internships with hi-tech companies and purposefully prepare students for internships
4. Be a "rapid response" unit that can implement new content with a minimum of stress. For example, suppose nano-technology industry immediately needed numerous technicians. Within a week or two week's time, a course or series of courses and labs could be setup to take advantage of the opportunity.