



# The College of New Jersey

School of Engineering

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To: College-wide Steering Committee  
From: Steven Schreiner, Dean, School of Engineering  
Date: September 26, 2012

Re: Change in Nomenclature for Mathematics/ Science/ Technology (M/S/T)

I am requesting that the Steering Committee please approve the attached request from the Technological Studies Department for a change in Nomenclature for the "Mathematics/ Science/ Technology (M/S/T) for Early Childhood and Elementary Education" Bachelor of Science degree program to "Integrative-STEM Education" or "i-STEM Education." This request will ultimately need to be approved by the New Jersey's President's Council as a "change in nomenclature" only; there is no change to the curriculum.

I support this request because this new name aligns very well with national and regional trends in K-12 education standards. Additionally, the "integration" of the S-T-E-M topics better reflects the content of the program, as well as, the mission of the School of Engineering. The M/S/T program has become a national exemplar for pre-service education of elementary teachers, and this name change will help to further enhance its reputation. Additionally, beyond educating teachers, the School's Center for Excellence in STEM Education has secured significant grant support to create and define pre-engineering curricula across the State – TCNJ's School of Engineering is dedicated to pre-engineering and engineering education K-16+.

This request came from the department and has been approved by the School of Engineering Curriculum Committee. A concern was raised that there may be possible confusion by prospective students that this degree may be an engineering degree or similar to an engineering degree offered by the School. However, since the word "Engineering" is not explicitly stated in the name and the word "Education" is explicitly stated in the name, there should be no confusion that this is indeed an education degree. Moreover, this degree is distinctly marketed as an education degree and is clearly identified as separate from our ABET-accredited engineering programs; the M/S/T program is under the jurisdiction of NCATE accreditation.

I have reached out to the Dean's Council for comment as required by our governance process and there were no objections to this name change. Specifically, Deans Osborn and Kiselica discussed this proposal with the leadership in their respective Schools, which yielded support for this name change. Additionally, Dean Rifkin responded with no concerns for this proposal.

cc: Drs. Karsnitz, O'Brien, Osborn, Kiselica, Rifkin, Stella, File