



FY11 Project Description and Budget Summary

(Cells will expand to accommodate content. Please limit total content to four pages or fewer.)

Project Title:	IT Business Case Competition
Who is involved in this project? <i>(names, role, organizations)</i>	Steve Creason, Associate Professor, Metropolitan State University Mary Texer, Director IT Industry Relations, Advance IT Minnesota Kathy Shields, Manager Technical Training, Wells Fargo Adam McConnell, Senior Manager, Accenture Designated faculty coaches from MnSCU universities who chose to participate (5-7 are expected)
What will this project accomplish?	The competition is intended to stimulate more business-oriented thinking and skill development among students interested in information technology from throughout the MnSCU university system.
Who from above will serve as the Project Leader(s)? <i>(Name, Phone, Email Address)</i>	Steve Creason, 612-659-7289, steve.creason@metrostate.edu

Narrative Description

(Please describe the overall project in terms of: A. What students will learn or gain from this effort B. Why and how you know outcomes are relevant to the IT workplace C. How students will become involved D. How students will acquire key competencies or outcomes E. How you will know to what extent this project is successful)

This competition will be open to teams of four upper division Information Technology students (Business, MIS, CS,CIS, and related majors) from each of MnSCU's four year institutions. The competition would give the teams the opportunity to test their ability to quickly review and research a business case and identify and present a viable solution to a group of industry judges. The first year this competition will involve one round.

Career success in the IT workplace requires people to have both strategic and tactical thinking capabilities as well as excellent communication and presentation skills. Teams will be able to demonstrate their skills in each area to industry leaders. Whether the teams win or lose, members will make great industry connections with can help with their success. This idea is derived from similar competitions that have been well received by students and faculty around the country; we want to provide Minnesota students with a similar opportunity and generate positive publicity for MnSCU students, programs and institutions.

Each participating school will choose their team through a selection process determined by the individual schools. The goal is to include as many students as possible in the tryout process, but at least 40 per school. The competition will be promoted beginning in September, 2010 which will give students approximately eight months to develop/practice the requisite skills until the competition in April.

We will know this competition is successful through feedback from all participants. We will also conduct a public relations campaign to increase IT community awareness of the competition and the winners. We will also document and present the program at various faculty conferences.

Deliverables <i>(What will be produced to accomplish objectives?)</i>	Schedule <i>(Summary of milestones and completion dates)</i>
<p>The primary deliverable will be the competition itself; supporting materials will include marketing and registration materials, case studies, etc.</p>	<p>Announce Competition – September, 2010 Distribute marketing and registration materials – September, 2010 Accept Team Registrations – due February, 2011 Solicit for competition judges – due March, 2011 Develop evaluation criteria, due March, 2011 Secure space for competition – begin Sept; complete March, 2011 Hold the event, late April, 2011</p>
Metrics <i>(How will each major outcome be measured?)</i>	Targets <i>(What are the target metrics for each outcome?)</i>
<p>Number of students who participate in pre-competition qualifying process</p> <p>Number of schools participating</p> <p>Each team will be judged on their case study analysis, recommendation and presentation skills. A scale of 1-6 will be used.</p>	<p>Goal is to involve at least 40 students per university, range is 200 to 280 depending on number of schools that participate</p> <p>5 minimum, target is all 7</p> <p>The winning team(s) will have the highest combined score in each round.</p>
How will this effort be sustained after completion? Or, what are the residual benefits going forward?	What are the three greatest challenges to be managed in this project?
<p>A successful pilot competition could lead to corporate-sponsored teams and self-sustaining financial model for the competition.</p> <p>Prior year's business cases will be made available to MnSCU faculty for use in classes and competition preparation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Getting schools/teams to participate (communicating the benefits and opportunity) 2) Managing event logistics, and funding for teams 3) Finding/developing appropriately challenging case studies 4) Securing the participation of company volunteers to serve as judges
Other considerations	
<p>The seven schools eligible to participate would have to find funding to bring their team of 4 plus at least 1 coach to the Twin Cities for the competition. The Center would fund hotel expenses and most meals, the schools would cover mileage.</p> <p>Coaching time is budgeted at 4 “faculty duty days” per school for a faculty member to support team development and at the competition. The Center will pay for 2 duty days per school.</p> <p>Each school choosing to participate will be expected to sign a letter of commitment that includes abiding by the competition framework.</p> <p>The Competition is being held near the Twin Cities to better ensure wider participation by volunteer industry judges.</p>	

Budget Summary (Cash and in-kind if applicable. We need this info to document leveraged value of allocations, supplemental budget worksheet is available as Excel document.)

Line Item Category	Center Funding	Other Cash		In-kind Contributions	
		Source	Amount	Source	Est. Value
Project Leadership (5 duty days)	\$3500			Internal staff time	\$2,000
Other faculty compensation(2 days per school, 14 duty days)	\$9800	School budgets	\$9800	Faculty allocation of time	\$9800
Staff and admin Support					\$5,000
Contracted Services – Facilities/Hotel/meals/etc.	\$10,000				
Travel		School budgets	\$4000		
Equipment and Software					
Supplies and Awards	\$1500				
Other: judges				Industry	\$8,000
Totals	\$24,800		\$13800		\$24,800