PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Polytechnic Institute

Date:		May 19, 2025

To:		Patrick J. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Diversity

From:		Daniel Castro, Dean, Purdue Polytechnic Institute

Subject:	Merging the Departments of Computer Graphics Technology and Information Technology to the School of Applied and Creative Computing

The unification of the Departments of Computer Graphics Technology (CGT) and Computer and Information Technology (CIT) into the proposed *School of Applied and Creative Computing* is a strategic initiative designed to address several critical challenges and capitalize on opportunities that will enhance the university's academic and research impact. This is not merely a consolidation of resources but a visionary step toward creating a more integrated, efficient, and influential academic unit within Purdue Polytechnic and Purdue University.

In the rapidly evolving field of computing, interdisciplinary collaboration plays a pivotal role in fostering innovation and advancing research. CGT and CIT serve varied industry needs, and their underlying missions, academic disciplines, and foundational skills intersect in ways that create opportunities for collaboration and mutual enhancement. Both departments are fundamentally centered around applying technology to produce cutting-edge solutions, whether through visual content creation or secure information systems. This shared goal aligns them more closely than it may initially appear, and bringing both together in a single School will not compromise their respective foci or their service to industry needs. Unifying the departments will foster interdisciplinary collaboration, enriching both research and education. This move will strengthen the "Purdue Computes" initiative and align with CIT's existing participation, enhancing the overall program strength.

The overlap between CIT's technical skills in infrastructure and CGT's expertise in visualization highlights a shared foundation in applied computing and technology. Furthermore, the convergence of creative and technical industries, especially in areas like data visualization, augmented reality, and educational technology, calls for a combined approach. In a single School, CGT and CIT faculty can open new research possibilities for innovation, providing students and faculty with opportunities to explore uncharted academic territories that integrate both visual computing and IT solutions. By leveraging the strengths of both departments, we can better prepare students for a rapidly evolving tech landscape, where companies increasingly value professionals who can operate at the intersection of creativity and technology. Our goal is to position both students and faculty to thrive in industries where computing, visualization, and

design are increasingly integrated. This strategic combination will create a cohesive School that reflects and responds to the interconnected nature of modern technology fields.

Approval Recommended: Approved:

_____ 5/22/2025   _____ 5.28.25
Patrick J. Wolfe   Date   Mung Chiang   Date
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