



Project Profile: The Applied Baccalaureate Degree: An Emerging Pathway to Technician Education

NSF-ATE ADVISORY GROUP

James Jacobs, Chair

President, Macomb Community College

Barbara Anderegg

Madison Area Technical College

Donna Dare

Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, St. Louis Community College

Christopher Mullin

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Policy and Research, State University System of Florida, Board of Governors

Scott Newman

Division Chair, Information Technologies, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology

Allen Phelps

Professor Emeritus, College of Education, University of Wisconsin

Michelle Van Noy

Research Project Manager, John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University

PROJECT EVALUATOR

Amy Germuth, EvalWorks

OCCRL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Debra Bragg, Principal Investigator

Mark Combs

Maria Claudia Soler Salazar

Overview

The Applied Baccalaureate Degree: An Emerging Pathway to Technician Education is a project funded by a grant received from the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program. This project is designed to examine the phenomenon of applied baccalaureate (AB) degrees in the United States, by documenting and evaluating NSF-ATE's impact on technician education in the form of new and emerging AB degree programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Goals

The overarching goal of this research is to provide college administrators and instructors, employers, and researchers with up-to-date, detailed information about how AB degree programs in STEM fields, particularly those affiliated with NSF-ATE centers and projects, operate through partnerships and meet students' and employers' workforce needs.

The first phase of this project, a landscape study, documented the shape and scope of AB degrees in the universe of NSF-ATE projects and center. The second phase utilizes a participatory field study methodology to gather in-depth information on AB degree programs that offer the potential for adoption and scaling by other community colleges and universities. Dissemination is being done through webinars and professional development activities, culminating in workshops, seminars, and conference presentations that highlight promising practices and implications for the future of AB degrees associated with NSF-ATE and beyond.

Products

- Landscape study report (March 2012)
- Case study report (Spring 2015)
- Implementation strategy report (Spring 2015)
- Applied baccalaureate evaluation report (Summer 2015)

Funder

National Science Foundation | <http://www.nsf.gov>

For more information

Visit http://occrillinois.edu/projects/nsf_applied_baccalaureate/ for more information and links to the released products.

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