

**Proposed Statewide Higher Education Center for Information Technology
Education**

During the 2000 legislative session, the General Assembly appropriated approximately \$4 million to the Commission on Higher Education for a "College and University Technology Initiative." Given that there was no further description for the use of these funds, the CHE staff is requesting Commission approval for institutions to present a proposal for the development of a Statewide Higher Education Center for Information Technology Education. The Center will include public higher education institutions with possible involvement of private institutions. The Commission will annually request state appropriations for the management and operations of the Center.

An institutionally representative Board of Directors will provide oversight of the Center. It would be housed at one of the institutions with satellite centers strategically located at other institutions to provide statewide focus.

It is expected the Center will focus on business, industry and government need for a workforce that not only understands technology, but that can apply such understanding to create new strategic initiatives and help evolve new business opportunities.

The successful institution will have the fiscal responsibility for the state appropriations, and its budget will require annual Commission approval.

The staff recommends to the Committee on Finance and Facilities that the Commission request the institutions submit proposals for the development of a Statewide Higher Education Center for Information Technology Education. The staff will present the recommended Center to the Commission for its consideration at the October 5, 2000 meeting of the Commission on Higher Education, or as soon thereafter as possible.