Executive Summary:
Proposal for a New BS degree program in construction management (BSCM)

Construction in the U.S. has become a $500 billion per year industry marked by continuous and dramatic change. The demand for capable and highly trained construction management professionals, who can adapt and become effective leaders in the field, remains strong. Given the nation's need to address aging infrastructure, energy efficiency in both new and existing buildings, and innovative approaches to constructing new facilities in a timely and cost-efficient manner, there will be a continuous need for professional construction managers.

The proposed BSCM program has been designed to provide undergraduates a combination of technical, business, and industry-specific skills that will enable them to make immediate contribution to the construction industry or pursue advanced degrees. The program has been designed to meet current accreditation requirements of the American Council of Construction Education (ACCE). Currently there are sixty-eight ACCE accredited BSCM programs in the U.S., a testament to the strong demand for students graduating with this skillset.

The proposed BSCM program will build on existing RIT strengths; many of the program's core courses are currently taught within the Civil Engineering Technology program in CAST. Moreover, the new program will draw on the strengths of the Saunders College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts, as ACCE accreditation requires that students have broad exposure to business, economics, and management topics.

The Department of Civil Engineering Technology, Environmental Management and Safety (CETEMS) currently offers four academic programs: a BS in civil engineering technology, a BS in environmental sustainability health and safety, an MS in environmental, health and safety management, and an MS in facility management. Both undergraduate programs are offered in the traditional on-campus setting and both graduate programs are offered online and primarily serve working professionals. In similar fashion, CETEMS is proposing an on-campus BS and online MS program in construction management. These new programs mesh well with the other programs in the department, and provide a variety of paths for students interested in pursuing BS/MS combinations. It will be especially valuable in providing a graduate program path for students in the undergraduate civil engineering technology program.

Steady state enrollment has been projected by Enrollment Management & Career Services at 60 FTEs by year four. The “five year projection for revenue and cost,” developed by Jackie Taylor in RIT’s Controller’s Office, forecasts that the program will begin generating revenue in excess of costs in year two.

Creation of a new BSCM degree program at RIT, housed in the CETEMS Department of CAST, will be a desirable and viable initiative. The proposed program is consistent with the mission and strategy of the University; it will synergistically enhance existing programs, provide graduates with requisite and valuable skills in a growing market, and offer a financially attractive addition to the RIT portfolio.