**DEPARTMENT:** Computer Information Technology
**PROGRAM:** Computer User Support (CUS) Degree                    **3/16/2005**

**TITLE**:  Release Time for Field Experience                    Priority: 20

**Describe Initiative**:  Go to various sites such as Symantec to observe Help Desk activity as well as procedures and methods associated with user support activities. Activities could be divided into short-term, short-time visits and long-term placements (e.g. one term's worth)

**Why do it?** Instructors involved with courses and students in the CUS program need to be as current as possible about industry trends in general and local employer needs and trends in particular.

**What will the outcome of the initiative be?** Better-prepared instructors; closer ties with local employers.

**Is it feasible?** Yes, since we have a departmental advisory committee whose members include support managers and others from local industry. We have a strong starting point.

**What would be the campus location of this request/project?** This would involve mostly off-campus site visits, in the local area.

**How many students (per year) will benefit?** The CUS program has 20-30 majors per year.

**How will students benefit?** Instructors will be able to connect course work to known needs in the real world.

**Describe Resources needed**:
Time to conduct outreach to local community to identify potential visit and placement locations.

Release time for faculty
         --Short-term visits: Minimal resources if scheduling is carefully arranged to avoid conflict with teaching load. Possible need for substitute time.
         --Long-term placements: Course-release time, up to two courses for one term?

**List Possible Funding Sources**:
         Short-term, short-time visits would not require funding.
         For longer-term placements/internships:
                  Individual professional development funds.
                  Curriculum Development funds for course release.
                  Department seek funds for an initiative of this type for all our programs?
                  College establish a program for professional-technical areas generally?

**Provide ORG & PROG codes**

**How does project articulate with college's Vision, Mission and Goals and contribute toward meeting the President's/Board's approved goals?**
This initiative directly supports the college's Mission to provide quality Professional Technical degree programs. This initiative is an example of the Learning Core Value by working together to create a learning-centered environment, of the Innovation Core Value by creativity and experimentation to provide better support for students, of the Collaboration and Partnership Core Value by encouraging and expanding partnerships with organizations in the community.