

News & Updates

Department of Applied Engineering
& Technical Management

UNI / University of
Northern Iowa

Save the Date!



JOIN US FOR THE APPLIED ENGINEERING BUILDING

Groundbreaking Ceremony

June 9 at 1 p.m.

2900 Campus St, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Allow us to Reintroduce Ourselves



UNI Department of Technology changes name to Department of Applied Engineering and Technical Management

The new year brings a re-envisioned future for the University of Northern Iowa's most industry-focused department – solidifying UNI's commitment to bolstering Iowa's workforce in some of the fastest growing fields.

Formerly known as the Department of Technology, UNI is pleased to announce that the department has changed its name to the Department of Applied Engineering and Technical Management, effective immediately.

"The department's new name better aligns with the programs they offer and reflects the progress we've made to build a variety of programs that prepare students for high-demand areas such as engineering, manufacturing and management," said John Fritch, Dean of the UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences. "These are programs that have become increasingly important to the economic development of the state, and ones we are committed to elevating."

The department's programs include majors in electrical engineering technology, manufacturing engineering technology, construction management, technology and engineering education, technology management, and graphic technology.

"Across industries, there's a huge demand for our students, and they have phenomenal records of career placement and starting salaries," said department head Lisa Riedle. "We are currently looking at 100

percent placement of our students, and that says a lot about our programs. In order for projects to run smoothly, it takes knowledge of various areas. Our students receive a well-rounded education, and are versed in engineering applications, project management, team building and operations."

The department is housed in the former Industrial Technology Center at UNI, which has been renamed to the Applied Engineering Building and will soon undergo a \$44 million expansion and modernization, thanks to generous support from the state legislature and private donors.

This project, beginning in the spring, will provide a 21st-century facility for students, faculty and staff. The expansion of new technology-rich classrooms and state of the art labs will provide the needed space for training, where students can learn, collaborate and interact with professors. Further, these labs will allow UNI to develop new programs that support emerging fields, create project-based teaching models and engage students at all levels in research projects.

"We look forward to getting our students into these new facilities, and continuing our work to prepare Iowa's industry leaders for tomorrow," says Riedle.

New automation degree coming to UNI in fall 2022

In keeping with its commitment to preparing graduates for Industry 4.0, the Department of Applied Engineering and Technical Management has announced the first degree of its kind in the state of Iowa.

The new Bachelor of Science in Automation Engineering Technology (AET) was approved by the Board of Regents in February and will be offered in the fall semester 2022.

Through a combination of industry-relevant training and hands-on experience, the AET program will help students apply their knowledge of automation engineering technology to industry and manufacturing for process control and system review. It will equip students to work in one of the fastest-growing areas of technology with the demand being particularly great in the automotive, metal casting and energy industries.

The AET program combines elements of UNI's electrical engineering technology (EET) program and the manufacturing engineering technology (MET) program. Because only two-year programs in automation engineering technology exist in Iowa, this new degree option is especially enticing for incoming students. With the similarities to EET and MET, there is also the hope that some students in the department will double major.

"UNI is proud to be the first in the state to offer this type of program," said Chris Shaw, Recruitment Coordinator in the Department of Applied Engineering and Technical Management. "We can clearly see this is a skillset employers are looking for, and we've worked hard to offer a program that will meet their needs and become a premier place in the state for students to thrive."

Even at a national level, UNI's degree will be unique since most programs offered by other universities are heavily theoretical with a large emphasis on engineering. UNI's program will be more focused on hands-on learning.

