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Masters Degree Program in Water Resources Planning and Management: An Update

Paul G. Bourget¹

ABSTRACT:

The Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR), has developed a masters degree program in water resources planning and management. As part of the Corps' planning "Hire-Train-Retain" initiative, the degree program is designed to enable water resources planners, along with other related technical professionals, to complete the requirements for a masters degree at government expense in a relatively compressed time frame. The program fills an important niche in terms of the Corps' ability to rapidly build capability in the face of losses of experienced personnel. The program provides a significant incentive for hiring and retaining planning talent as well as enhancing that talent through professional growth offered by an advanced professional education. As the program matures, the hope is that interests outside of the Corps will also find the program attractive. More information on the program will be presented, along with lessons learned from the 2003-04 Academic Year.

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