

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am very pleased to write an unequivocally strong letter in support of the initiative by the Director of the Women's Studies Program to change the unit's name to Women's and Gender Studies. The request for the name change is long overdue and reflects a number of changes in programs such as ours that are taking place at other institutions.

Specifically, here are some of the reasons why it would make good sense to change the name of our program.

1. The curriculum and course offerings already reflect a gender studies perspective.
2. There is strong student interest to have courses and a degree that is broader than simply focusing on women's issues.
3. As mentioned, most major research universities have made the transition to women's and gender studies.
4. The faculty affiliated with the program and the LAS Representative assembly have already voted in favor of the name change.
5. The name change would greatly assist marketing and recruiting efforts for the program and the undergraduate major.
6. Very importantly, a name change would enable help the program be more inclusive of the diverse pedagogical issues in the discipline.
7. Finally, the name change would assist the program in its efforts to collaborate with more departments and colleges for the purposes of offering a range of possible dual certificate programs.

In sum, the name change to women's and gender studies will allow the program to attract a wider audience of domestic and international students and greatly foster interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Whiteford, Professor of Anthropology  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences