**LETTER OF INTENT – 1**

(Degree Program)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas

2. Education Program Contact person/title: Dr. Jim Gigantino

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

3. Telephone number/e-mail address: 479-575-2151/jgiganti@uark.edu

4. Proposed Name of Certificate or Degree Program: Master of Science in Environmental

Resiliency

5. Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2024

6. Requested CIP Code: 03.0101

7. Program Description:

The Master of Science in Environmental Resiliency program presents an advanced study of resiliency in the context of sustainability, climate, and environmental change. The program components will be divided into four core areas: 1) sustainability, 2) leadership, 3) resiliency, and 4) certifications, accounting, and metrics. Students will learn theories and methods of resiliency and sustainability as part of a broader understanding of climate change and solutions as they apply to the four topic areas above. A common core of classes in sustainability resiliency will serve as the foundation for the four topic areas.

After a formal review of available online programs in Arkansas and the southeastern United States we found that this will be a unique program with little competition. Graduates of our proposed program will be in a position to advance their careers with a better understanding of what is needed to move companies, agencies and businesses toward a more resilient and environmentally friendly future. The market analysis suggests that there is need and will be demand for this program as no institution currently fills this need in our region. Nationally, there are now over 3,000 programs related to sustainability, an increase from 13 in 2008. The southeastern United States is underrepresented and this proposal represents one of the first steps to ameliorating the paucity of such programs in the region.

8. Mode of Delivery (mark all that apply):

  **On-Campus**

 **Off-Campus Location**

Provide address of off-campus location

Provide a copy of the e-mail notification to other institutions in the state notifying them of the proposed program. Please inform institutions not to send the response to “Reply All”. If you receive an objection/concern(s) from an institution, reply to the institution and copy ADHE on the email. That institution should respond and copy ADHE. If the objection/concern(s) cannot be resolved, ADHE may intervene.

Submit copy of written notification to Higher Learning Commission (HLC) if notification required by HLC for a program offered at an off-campus location.

 Indicate distance of proposed site from main campus.

 X **Distance Technology** (50% of program offered by distance technology)

Submit copy of written notification to HLC if notification is required by HLC for a program offered by distance technology.

9. List existing certificate or degree programs that support the proposed program:

 Biology, Master of Science

Operations Analytics, Master of Science in Operations Analytics

Sustainability Graduate Certificate

10. President/Chancellor Approval Date: June 23, 2023

11. Academic Affairs Officer: Dr. Terry Martin, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic

Affairs Date: June 16, 2023