

BACKGROUND

**Lorain County Community College
Associate of Applied Science in Computer Games and Simulation Design**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

**This program clearly meets Regents' standards for associate degree programs.
There were no serious concerns raised in this review.**

Request: Lorain County Community College proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Computer Games and Simulation Design in response to the growing need for computer games and simulation design technicians. A recent report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers predicts that the fastest growth in the global entertainment industry will be in computer and video games, and projected to be a 55 billion dollar industry by 2009. New career opportunities in this fast growing industry include not only the entertainment industry; but also in the education, business, health care, marketing, military, and recreational industries as well.

Lorain County has seen severe job losses in recent years due to the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs and the loss of over 2000 jobs in 2006 due to the closing of the Ford Lorain Assembly Plant and the downsizing of Columbia Gas, Century Tel, and others. Residents in this region impacted by the lost of jobs and the downsizing of companies will have the opportunity to further their education and acquire the skills needed for entry level positions in the computer games and design field. The program will also be attractive to the region's high school students, College Tech Prep Students and others interested in this career path.

Students enrolled in this program will learn how to create multiple computer games and simulations, how to use design tools of varying complexities and understand the processes in the production of computer games and simulations. Students interested in starting their own computer game and design business will have the opportunity to be involved in Lorain County Community College's Entrepreneurial Program that provides the information, training and resources needed to start and operate a successful business.

Students successfully completing this program can continue their education by enrolling in the University Partnership Bachelor's Program in Business Administration at Lorain County Community College. Currently, Shawnee State University offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Gaming and Simulation Development and the College plans to expand its University Partnership to include this program.

Program Purpose/Mission:

Lorain County, Ohio has suffered the third largest percentage decline in employment nationwide and it is unlikely that these jobs will be recovered in the manufacturing sector. By offering the Computer Games and Simulation Design Program, the College expects to increase enrollment and provide the region with graduates who are skilled in computer programming, digital art and simulation design. It is anticipated that some of graduates will form their own businesses, thereby creating additional jobs in the region.

Enrollment: The proposed program has already attracted some student interest as a result of the College offering in the fall of 2007 an experimental course entitled, 'Introduction to

Computer Games and Simulations, with an enrollment of 13 students. Based on student interest, the College is projecting an enrollment of 15 full time and 12 part-time students in 2009-2010 with a potential growth of 24 full-time students by 2011.

Curriculum: The College's Multidisciplinary Faculty Committee that includes college faculty from the Division of Arts and Humanities, Business, Science and Mathematics, Engineering Technologies and Distance Learning, were all instrumental in the development of the program's curriculum. Regional employers from the industry meet with the Committee on several occasions to offer guidance and direction into the program's development.

The Multidisciplinary Faculty Committee will monitor and assess the effectiveness of the program through on-going program review meetings.

Students enrolled in the program will complete the general education classes in the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Sciences as well as the technical courses developed for this program.

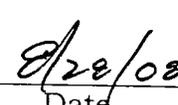
Faculty/Resource Needs: This new degree program is the College's first multidisciplinary Associate of Applied Science degree and oversight for the program will be assigned to a faculty member who will serve as the program's academic coordinator. The new coordinator will report directly to the division dean. The College plans to use existing full and part-time faculty eliminating the need to hire new faculty.

The College has several state-of-art computer laboratories that will be available to students enrolled in this program and is financially prepared to operate this program.

Program Duplication: Lorain County Community College contacted Lakeland Community College and Cuyahoga Community College, to ensure this proposed program does not duplicate a program they are currently offering. Both colleges expressed their support and cooperation for the program's development in this region of the state. The College is willing to share best practices and resources with them and other institutions as well.

Currently, the three colleges are working collaboratively on several new initiatives, such as the alternative energy project for Northeast Ohio, and have a history of collaboration and cooperation.

End of Comment Period: August 15, 2008
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	
	
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date