

## BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

### KENT STATE UNIVERSITY-TRUMBULL CAMPUS Associate of Technical Study (Type B) in Environment Management

#### Recommendation

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

**Request:** Kent State University-Trumbull Campus proposes an Associate of Technical Study (Type B) in Environment Management. The proposed program was developed in partnership with the Davey Tree Expert Company, the largest and oldest tree preservation company in the U.S. and Canada. The company's corporate headquarters are located in Ohio and have over 7,000 employees, of which 567 reside in Ohio. In projecting the company's future growth and also the nation's renewed interest in a 'green environment,' the company determined their need for additional trained management and administrative personnel. For the past 10 years, the company has partnered with various community colleges across the nation and now with Kent State University to develop an academic program that is feasible for their employees and offers them the opportunity for career advancement, mobility and professional success.

Employees of Davey Tree Expert Company are eligible to earn thirty (30) college credits upon completion of a National Registered Apprenticeship Program developed in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor. After successful completion of the apprentice program, employees will then enroll in the new proposed program either on campus or via the University's distance-learning program. The apprenticeship program's thirty technical hours of training, combined with the University's general education requirements and remaining required technical courses, completes the requirements needed for the proposed program. Employees interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree have to opportunity to enroll in the University's Bachelor of Technology program.

The Operating Manual for Two-Year Campus Programs states, " The Associate of Technical Study degree is awarded for successful completion of a minimum of ninety quarter (or sixty semester ) credit hours of an individually planned technical education program designed to respond to needs for specialized technical education not currently available in the formal degree programs available on a particular campus." It also states that "... courses completed or training received by a student at other institutions of higher education, vocational centers, or educational enterprises judged by the institution to be of college level..." may be used toward forty-five quarter hours (or thirty semester hours) of the credit needed for graduation.

**Program Purpose/Mission:** The Kent State University Regional Campus system is charged with delivering a wide variety of technical education and training programs to the communities served by its regional campuses and also with delivering programs and services that encourage economic development by enhancing business and employment opportunities.

Working as partners with the Davey Tree Expert Company, the proposed program was developed to meet their specific need for current and future trained managers and administrative personnel. The proposed degree may also be of interest to individuals who are considering a career path in natural resources, conservation, landscaping or the environment.

**Enrollment:** Student enrollment will be predominately employees of the Davey Tree Expert Company attending part-time while maintaining a full-time work schedule. The institution has projected an enrollment of twelve part-time employees for the first year and is expected to grow once employees become familiar with proposed program and the option to take courses online and also on site. The University has developed an orientation plan for employees to ensure

they meet with an advisor/counselor and the financial aide office, tour the library, computer lab, book store and other key locations available to students. Employees will also be informed of various services and resources available to them to ensure their academic success.

**Curriculum:** The proposed program will be under the academic control of the College of Technology and offered only at Trumbull Campus, as well as online. The transfer of the thirty (30) credits awarded to employees who complete the National Registered Apprenticeship Program provides the technical training courses needed for this proposed degree and combined with the general education requirements and few remaining technical courses, completes the proposed program's course requirements.

**Faculty/Resource Needs:** Current full-time and adjunct faculty members will teach the required general education and technical courses needed for this proposed program. The University plans to add additional faculty members as needed to accommodate the growth of the proposed program.

The campus has the classroom capacity needed to accommodate the additional Davey Tree Expert Company employees and others interested in enrolling this proposed program. The University's distance-learning system has the capacity to accommodate the number of employees who select to take on-line courses. Due to the nature of the proposed program special classroom laboratories and/or equipment are not needed for the program's implementation.

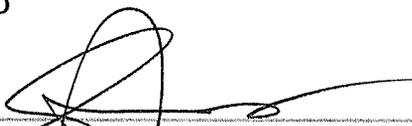
The University is financially prepared to support the cost of implementing this new program.

**Program Duplication:** Kent State University-Trumbull campus will be the first institution to offer this proposed program. The University is willing to collaborate and share best practices and resources with other two-year institutions interested in the development of this or other similar program.

**End of comment period: July 29, 2009**

**No Comments Received, Recommend Approval**

**APPROVED**



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

8/14/09

Date