

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Stark State College of Technology Associate of Applied Science in Homeland Security Information Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

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

Request: Stark State College of Technology proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Homeland Security Information Technology. The proposed Homeland Security Information Technology program was developed in response to the growing regional, state and national need for technically trained individuals who can conduct the Information Technology (IT) operations and activities needed to enhance the security of our state and nation.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimates a shortage of homeland security professionals in excess of 37,000 over the next six years. Professionals with specialized training in IT security will be among those in greatest need. These specialists identify potential computer security threats and implement computer system security plans to prevent computer-related security breaches from anti-American groups, organized crime groups, white collar criminals and others seeking to commit cyber fraud or computer identify theft.

Students enrolled in the proposed program will learn to identify and conduct risk and threat assessments on computer systems, to analyze data, and to develop procedures and algorithms that prevent and react to data and computer-related security breaches. They will also learn the importance of conducting computer forensics investigations and the role of homeland security in preventing acts of terrorism.

Graduates of the proposed program will enter the job market 'in demand' with the opportunity to earn a good starting wage and with the potential for promotion due to the demand for Homeland Security Information Technology technicians. Successful students will find career opportunities with regional, state and national law enforcement agencies, the Secret Service, branches of the military, FBI, national air transportation agencies, U.S. Customs and others.

Program Purpose/Mission: The purpose of the proposed program is to train IT professionals who specialize in operations related to regional, state and national security. The proposed program supports the College's mission to provide access to education, promote economic development, and improve the quality of life for area residents by offering programs and training in a high-demand and high-growth fields. The College is dedicated to individual learning, transferable higher education, and career success. To attract non-traditional, underserved, and at-risk populations, the College participates in the TRIO Upward Bound Program, Factors Affecting Minority Enrollment (FAME) program, College Tech Prep Program and has developed an Early College Program for K-12.

Enrollment: The College is projecting an enrollment of 65 full-time and 24 part-time students beginning in January 2009. An increase to 95 full-time and 32 part-time students is projected for 2010. Students interested a career path in information technology will be drawn to this proposed program.

An articulation agreement is being discussed with Youngstown State University for students interested in continuing their education.

Curriculum: The proposed program will be a part of the Information Technology Division. The program will utilize the general education courses already developed by the College and will add the additional technical courses required for this specific degree. Several of the technical courses include hands-on learning experiences, which reinforce classroom learning and provide students the opportunity to practice and demonstrate their knowledge.

Students enrolled in the program will have access to the College's classroom and computer facilities, the Success Center for tutoring and learning needs, the campus library and OhioLINK.

As a result of information shared by the Department Chair during a recent international conference, the College received letters of support from the Editor-in-Chief of the Diplomatic Courier, Washington D.C., the Computer Science and Information Technology Department at the University of New Mexico and the Centre for Legal and Economic Research at the University of Do Porto in Porto, Portugal. The international endorsement gives the College the opportunity to become a model for Homeland Security Information Technology associate degree programs, which can be replicated at other post-secondary national and international institutions.

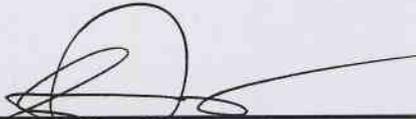
Faculty/Resource Needs: The College is financially prepared to offer this program and incur the start-up costs needed based on the projected student enrollment.

The College plans to use existing faculty members to teach the required general education and technical courses required for the program. Additional faculty members will be added as needed to accommodate student enrollment.

Program Duplication: The proposed program is not currently offered at any other two-year institutions within 100 miles of Stark State College of Technology. The College has expressed a willingness to share "best practices" and to explore opportunities for collaboration with other institutions interested in developing this or similar programs.

End of Comment Period: December 26, 2008
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved:



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

1/6/09

Date:

MLC