BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Hocking Technical College

Recommendation

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

Request: Hocking Technical College proposes an Associate of Applied Science in Equine Health and Complementary Therapies. Equine health and complementary therapy is an important sector within the industry and there is a growing interest and need for skilled equine technicians in Ohio.

Purpose/Mission: Hocking College is an innovative, experienced-based technical college that offers unique and distinctive programs that serve diverse learners, employers and organizations. The college is Ohio's only public two-year institution with horses, stables, and fenced pastures with trails.

Enrollment: The college is projecting an initial enrollment of thirty-five full-time students, and anticipates enrollment will grow to forty full-time students by fall 2010. Students currently taking equine studies courses have expressed interest in the program and the college is maintaining a database of prospective students.

The college has established an articulation agreement with Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development Center. Course work completed in Great Oaks' Equine Science and Management program should transfer into the proposed program.

Curriculum: The proposed program was developed to meet industry demand for qualified horse care technicians and focuses on nutrition, anatomy, physiology, broodmare and foal care, and proper massage techniques. The program includes a co-op component, providing students with multiple learning experiences at neighboring farms.

Graduates of the program will find career opportunities at breeding and horse ranches; horse farms; race tracks; veterinary hospitals; zoos; horse shows and conferences; U.S. Park and Forest Service; state and municipal parks; and recreational and equine health care ranches. Starting salaries range from $36,800 to $48,000 annually.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college is financially prepared to initiate the program. A full-time faculty member will be hired to teach some of the technical courses; additional full-time faculty will be hired as needed to accommodate additional enrollment.

Program Duplication: The proposed program is currently not offered at any public two-year institution in Ohio. The college is willing to collaborate and share best practices with other institutions interested in developing this or similar programs.

End of Comment Period: January 4, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor — 1/9/09 Date

mlc