

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Stark State College of Technology

RECOMMENDATION

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

Request: Stark State College of Technology proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Paralegal Studies in response to the growing need for paralegals in the region. The college's Paralegal Advisory Committee, composed of regional lawyers, judges, legal aid agencies, and members of the Stark County Bar Association, assisted in the development of the program.

Mission: The mission of the college is "to be a first choice in higher education and catalyst for economic growth" and "provide high-value, student-centered associate degrees and professional development. The college is dedicated to individual learning, transferable higher education, and career success."

Enrollment: The college is projecting an initial enrollment of forty full-time and fifteen part-time students in fall 2010, and anticipates enrollment will grow to fifty-five full-time and thirty part-time students in 2011.

Curriculum: The curriculum includes a 210-hour practicum experience and will prepare students for careers in law firms, corporate legal departments, government offices, county and state court systems, military bases, and educational institutions. Starting salaries in the field range from \$32,000 to \$52,000 annually and the program will articulate into Kent State University's baccalaureate degree in professional studies for those students interested in furthering their education.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college financially prepared to offer the program and plans to hire a full-time program coordinator to oversee the program's implementation. Existing faculty will be used to teach in the program.

Program Duplication: The University of Akron-Summit College offers a similar program and the two institutions are working together to respond to the need for paralegals in the region. Both are willing to collaborate with other institutions interested in developing this or similar programs.

End of Comment Period: June 28, 2010

No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

7/2/10

Date

MIC