

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Hocking Technical College Associate of Applied Science in Biotechnology

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 Biotechnology in response to the growing need for trained bioscience technicians in central and southern Ohio. In a recent issue of *Business Facilities Magazine*, a comprehensive assessment of each state's biotech strength was measured and Ohio ranked fourth in the nation behind Pennsylvania, California and Massachusetts. Bioscience companies and bioscience research organizations are experiencing substantial growth in Ohio as a result of the state's investment in Third Frontier Funds, new industry trends and a competitive global economy. In the last two years, Ohio has attracted more than sixty new bioscience companies producing pharmaceuticals, medical devices and equipment. A new national initiative, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) was recently developed to create a new biomedical science career pathway for middle and high schools students that will be instrumental in the attraction of secondary students to this career field.

Hocking Technical College has established a partnership with Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc., one of Ohio's fastest growing biotechnology manufacturing companies. The company's growth in Ohio creates the need for additional bioscience technicians. Students enrolled in the proposed program will have the opportunity to participate in the company's established internship program where they learn about biotechnology research, testing, quality control, safety assessments and practices in a sterile environment. Students successfully completing the internship program will be considered for employment within the company. Other bioscience companies located in central and southern Ohio will also be interested in hiring graduates from the proposed program.

Graduates of the program will find careers as technicians in the bioscience field. Employment opportunities include serving as information suppliers or pharmaceutical testers. Additional career opportunities as research, laboratory, process, and quality control technicians are available. Potential employers include Ohio's bioscience companies (e.g., medical device and research laboratories, pharmaceutical and therapeutics companies, equipment manufacturers) as well as Ohio's health care agencies, state and local government offices, research facilities and others. Starting salaries range from \$36,800 to \$48,000 a year.

Program Purpose/Mission: The purpose of the proposed program is to provide students with the opportunity to obtain a degree that will allow them to begin careers in the growing bioscience technology area. Hocking Technical College is an innovative, experienced-based technical college that nurtures learning and learner success. The college is, "a state-assisted institution of higher learning that prepares learners for technical careers or transfer to other institutions of higher learning. The college has unique and distinctive programs which serve diverse local, regional, state, national and international learners, employers and organizations. The college is committed to providing accessible, affordable, high-quality, hands-on learning experiences and services."

Enrollment: The college is projecting an enrollment of 20 full-time students and 20 part-time students beginning Fall Semester 2009. The college projects that student enrollment will grow to 25 full-time students and 25 part-time students, beginning January 2010. Prospective students have already inquired about the program and the college is maintaining a database of interested students.

The Southeast College Tech Prep Consortium developed a biotechnology pathway in collaboration with Logan Hocking schools and students enrolled in the pathway will be able to transfer seamlessly into the college's proposed program. The college plans to develop an articulation agreement with Ohio University upon approval of the proposed program.

Curriculum: The college convened a Biotechnology Curriculum Committee to assist in the planning and development of the proposed program's curriculum. The curriculum is structured to provide students with the general education and specialized technical courses needed to meet the educational requirements for the proposed degree. A faculty member of the college's Biotechnology Curriculum Committee is also serving on the national Project Lead the Way Program; her expertise and involvement is ensuring the college's proposed program meets the rigor, standards, and accountability of the national program. Students enrolled in the program will be trained in the latest biotechnology techniques, receive hands-on laboratory learning experiences, and participate in company based internships.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The Dean of the School of Industry will be responsible for the administration of the proposed program. A new full-time faculty member will be hired to teach some of the technical courses and assist in the program's implementation. The college plans to hire additional full-time faculty as needed to accommodate an increased student enrollment.

Several bioscience companies in the area have donated used equipment to the college for use in classroom and laboratory instruction. Hocking Technical College is financially prepared to initiate the program.

Program Duplication: Sinclair Community College is more than 135 miles from the college and currently is the closest two-year institution offering a degree in biotechnology. Lakeland Community College, Cuyahoga Community College and Stark State College of Technology offer a similar program, but are located more than 200 miles from the college.

To address the growing needs of Ohio's bioscience companies, a Biotechnology Consortium was formed in collaboration with BioOhio, Inc., to ensure Ohio's bioscience companies have access to the skilled trained workforce needed to operate and remain in Ohio. The Bioscience Consortium consists of Sinclair Community College, Lakeland Community College, Stark State College of Technology, University of Cincinnati – Raymond Walters College, North Central State College and Hocking Technical College. The college and members of the Biotechnology Consortium have indicated their willingness to share the program's development and "best practices" with other institutions in interested in offering this and/or a similar program.

End of Comment Period: May 21, 2009
No Comments Received: Recommend Approval

Approved:	6/3/09
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

m/c