BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

North Central State College

RECOMMENDATION

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

Request: North Central State College proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Bioscience. Currently, the State of Ohio is the nation's third largest employer in the bioscience industry and regional research companies indicated the need for more trained bioscience technicians in the state.

Purpose/Mission: The mission of the college is "to provide quality, responsive, lifelong learning opportunities, including occupational, degree and other educational programs for individuals, business and industry, and the communities we serve."

Enrollment: The college is projecting an enrollment of twelve full-time and fifteen part-time students beginning fall semester 2010, and anticipates that enrollment will grow to twenty-eight full-time and sixteen part-time students by January 2011.

Curriculum: The curriculum is structured to provide students the necessary skills to work in medical research centers, agricultural centers, pharmaceutical companies, and research and development labs. The program includes a cooperative learning experience, providing students the opportunity to work with bioscience professionals. Graduates of the program will find career opportunities with starting salaries ranging from $30,000 to $35,000 annually. In addition, the college is discussing with Ashland University the possibility of creating an articulation agreement for students interested in pursuing a baccalaureate degree in biotechnology.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college is financially prepared to offer the program. Existing facilities and resources are in place to support the program. In addition, the college plans to hire an additional full-time faculty member to complement the existing faculty identified to teach in the program.

Program Duplication: Currently, the program is not offered at any other two-year public institution within eighty miles of the college (Stark State Technical College offers a similar program). The college is willing to collaborate and share best practices with other institutions interested in developing this or similar programs.

End of Comment Period: May 11, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor — 5/20/10 Date