BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY-TRUMBULL CAMPUS
Associate of Technical Study (Type B) in Allied Health Management

Executive Summary/Recommendation
This program clearly meets Regents' standards for associate degree programs. There were no serious concerns raised in this review.

Request: Kent State University-Trumbull proposes an Associate of Technical Study (Type B) in Allied Health Management.

The Operating Manual for Two-Year Campus Programs states, "The Associate of Technical Study degree is awarded for successful completion of a minimum of ninety quarter (or sixty) credit hours of an individually planned technical education program designed to respond to needs for specialized technical education not currently available in the formal degree programs available on a particular campus." It also states that "... courses completed or training received by a student at other institutions of higher education, vocational centers, or educational enterprises judged by the institution to be of college level..." may be used toward forty-five quarter hours (or thirty semester hours) of the credit needed for graduation.

The goal of the proposed program is to provide college credit for the technical skills that an individual has achieved through a state-certified allied health program and to provide the coursework needed for career advancement in healthcare administration.

Students who have already earned an accredited certificate from a state-certified allied health program and have previous healthcare experience have the opportunity to acquire the additional knowledge, skills, and training needed for an Associate of Technical Study degree. Upon admission to the program, up to twenty-seven semester credit hours can be awarded for prior learning based on the student’s attainment of an accredited certificate from a state-certified allied health program. In the proposed program, an additional 39 semester credit hours of general education and technical courses will be earned so that the student completes the required 66 semester credit hours needed for the proposed associate of technical study program. Students who complete the proposed program will be able to articulate to the University's Bachelor of Technology degree program.

Program Purpose/Mission: The NEO Healthforce Organization was created in 2002 to improve the communication between the healthcare industry and educational entities in the region. A goal of the organization was to identify strategic directions and partnerships that would eliminate the shortage of healthcare workers in this region of the state. One of the key issues identified by the organization was the need to develop an associate degree that would recognize the technical skills earned through a state-certified allied health program. The NEO Healthforce Organization also conducted a needs assessment of employers, employees and students enrolled in targeted allied health programs to determine their interest and support in pursuing this type of degree. Survey responses strongly indicated there was a need and interest from employers. The Dean of Kent State University-Trumbull campus recognized the potential and value in the development of this type of degree program. Working in cooperation with the NEO Healthforce Organization and several key healthcare providers in the region, the proposed program was developed for students who have earned an accredited certificate from a state-certified allied health program and are interested in continuing their education.

Enrollment: The Trumbull campus is projecting a student enrollment of twelve part-time and three full-time students for the first year, as most students interested in the program will be employed.
Students will have the opportunity to meet with a college advisor to determine the number of credits that can be transferred and the additional courses needed for degree completion.

**Curriculum:** The proposed program will be under the academic control of the College of Technology and will only be offered at the Kent State University-Trumbull Campus.

Built into the curriculum of the proposed program is the recognition that up to 27 semester credit hours can be awarded for students who possess an accredited certificate from a state-certified allied health program. The remaining courses will be made up of the required general education and business technology courses needed for degree completion. Many of the courses in the proposed program are already offered in other program areas and are offered both day and evening, allowing students to enroll in courses that accommodate their work and/or family schedules.

**Faculty/Resource Needs:** Current full-time and adjunct faculty members are teaching the required general education and business courses on campus, reducing the need to hire additional faculty members to meet projected student enrollment. The campus has the classroom capacity to accommodate the additional students and there are no special classroom laboratories or equipment needed for the proposed program.

**Program Duplication:** There is not another postsecondary institution that offers the proposed program within the region. Sinclair Community College and Columbus State Community College offer a similar program but are more than 170 miles from the Trumbull campus. The University is willing to collaborate and share best practices and resources with other two-year institutions interested in the development of this or similar programs.

End of Comment Period: November 6, 2008
One Comment Received: Recommend Approval

Approved: 

![Signature]

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor  

Date: 11/12/08