

BACKGROUND

North Central State College
Associate of Applied Science in Health Services Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

This program clearly meets Regents' standards for associate degree programs.

There were no serious concerns raised in this review.

Request: Healthcare is one of the fastest and largest growing industries in the nation. The industry's rapid growth is changing how and where healthcare is being provided, who is providing healthcare services, and how healthcare systems are being financed. Career opportunities in this field are becoming more diversified as healthcare providers are looking for educated and cross trained individuals who possess certain skills in more than one specialty area. Cross trained healthcare professionals are making a significant contribution to the improvement of the healthcare delivery system and the quality of patient care.

Several healthcare providers in Ashland, Crawford, Huron and Richland counties, which are served by the College, identified a specific need for cross trained healthcare professionals. The ability to hire cross trained professionals would help to reduce the additional stress and burden now placed on the workplace environment due to the shortage healthcare professionals. It's takes additional time and resources for the healthcare providers to cross train new and current employees and they would prefer that North Central State College produce the trained professionals they need.

North Central State College proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Services Technology in response to the need for cross trained healthcare professionals. Students enrolled in the program will acquired the education, training and skills needed to function as a crossed trained health care professional with diverse and specific skills. Areas of specialization for students to consider in this program are dialysis, phlebotomy, electrocardiography, surgical, emergency medical, and bioscience.

Employment opportunities for students successfully completing this program will be in the regions hospitals, medical practices, skilled nursing facilities, clinics, home health agencies, public health departments and others. Graduates of the Health Services Technology program interested in furthering their education may continue at the baccalaureate level selecting from a variety of health care and nursing related programs.

Program Purpose/Mission: The mission of North Central State College is to provide quality, responsive, lifelong learning opportunities, including occupational, degree and other educational programs for individuals, business and industry, and the community it serves. As a model college for the 21st Century, the college promotes a flexible and responsive, learner-centered environment that is committed to meeting community educational and training needs.

During the development of this program the College worked in partnership with the regions adult career centers including Knox County Adult Career Center, Madison Adult Career Center and Pioneer Career and Technology Center. Each of the adult career centers provided a letter of support for the program's development and is looking forward to its implementation in the fall. Regional partnership discussions continue as the partners explore ways that some of the healthcare certificate programs offered by the adult career centers can be offered at North Central State Community College using the College's current faculty members.

Students enrolled in the region's College Tech Prep Program and various adult career centers will have the opportunity to articulate directly into this program.

Enrollment: The College is projecting an enrollment of 27 full-time students and 65 part-time students beginning January 2009. Looking ahead to 2010, the College is projecting an enrollment of 32 full-time students and 72 part-time students. Planned PR and marketing efforts will focus on individuals recently down-sized or laid off, full and part-time employees currently working the regions health care facilities who are interested in upgrading their skills, emergency medical personnel interested in career advancement and students considering a career in the healthcare field.

Curriculum: The program's curriculum will provide students an opportunity to select and specialize in one to two specific areas of study, in addition to meeting the program's general education requirements. Students will need to earn 44 credits from selected technical courses including one or two areas of specialization such as, dialysis, phlebotomy, electrocardiography surgical, and bioscience.

Off-campus clinical experiences are incorporated into the curriculum and students must meet specific course objectives during this experience in order to successfully complete the program. Several of the healthcare providers in the region have agreed to expand their clinical site placements to accommodate additional students from the program.

Articulation agreements are currently being developed with several of the adult career centers in the region and will allow specific healthcare certificate programs to transfer into the College's associate degree programs.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The Health Services Technology program will be organized under the Health Sciences Division and administered by the Dean through the Director of Nursing. The College will utilize its current full and part-time faculty members to offer the courses needed for this program.

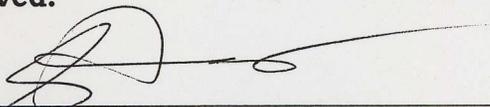
The College currently has classroom space, computer labs; science laboratories, library resources and other student services needed to commence this program early next year. Based on projected student enrollment the College is willing to incur the start-up costs needed to start this program.

Program Duplication: North Central State College worked in collaboration with several of the regions adult career centers to develop this new degree program. As committed partners in this endeavor, the College and adult career centers are jointly exploring marketing efforts for the recruitment of students, additional articulation agreements and opportunities to offer certificate programs at the College.

Within this region there is not another two-year postsecondary institution that offers a similar degree program.

End of Comment Period: September 22, 2008
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved:



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

10/6/08

Date