BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Hocking College

Recommendation

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

Request: Hocking College proposes an Associate of Applied Science in Wilderness Horsemanship in response to the growing need for trained personnel to specifically work with horses in backcountry areas. The college is Ohio's only public two-year institution with horses, stables, and fenced pastures with trails.

A study recently conducted for the American Horse Council by Deloitte Consulting LLP found that 4.6 million Americans are involved in the horsemanship industry as owners, service providers, employees and volunteers. This growing industry accounts for more than $39 billion and 460,000 full-time jobs in recreation, gaming, sports, entertainment, and agricultural businesses.

Purpose/Mission: Hocking College is an innovative, experienced-based technical college that offers unique and distinctive programs that serve diverse learners, employers and organizations. Students enrolled in the proposed program will learn essential horsemanship skills, including how to recognize and administer appropriate emergency care to animals, care and maintain equipment and facilities, and safely transport horses.

Enrollment: The college is projecting an enrollment of twenty full-time students beginning January 2010 and projects that student enrollment will grow to twenty-five full-time and ten part-time students by fall 2010. The proposed program is already generating interest and the college is maintaining a database of prospective students.

In addition, the college has established an articulation agreement with Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development Center. Coursework completed in Great Oaks' Equine Science and Management program may be transferred into the proposed program.

Curriculum: The curriculum is structured to provide students with the general education and technical courses needed for entry-level employment in the field. The program includes a co-op component, providing students with multiple learning experiences at neighboring farms.

Graduates of the program will find careers as riding instructors, guides, team drivers, outfitters, packers, leatherworkers and others. Employment opportunities include working at recreational dude and vacation ranches, U.S. Park and Forest Service, state and municipal parks, equine boarding stables, training and riding camps, and equine health care ranches. Starting salaries range from $36,800 to $48,000 annually.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college is financially prepared to initiate the program. A full-time faculty member will be hired to teach some of the technical courses and assist in the implementation of the program. The college plans to hire additional full-time faculty as needed to accommodate additional student enrollment.

Program Duplication: Currently, the proposed program it is not offered at any public two-year institution in Ohio. The college is willing collaborate and share best practices and resources with other two-year institutions interested in developing this or similar programs.

End of comment period: September 2, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

9/16/09
Date

rnlc