

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RECOMMENDATION

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

Request: Lorain County Community College proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Alternative Energy Technology. Renewable energy technology is an emerging field as a result of rising energy costs and the nation's reliance on fossil fuels. Potentially, over twenty-two thousand (22,000) new manufacturing jobs in the renewable energy industry could be added in Ohio, replacing a portion of the 234,000 jobs recently lost due to the downsizing and closure of some manufacturing plants.

Purpose/Mission: Lorain County Community College is an innovative leader in education, economic, community, and cultural development, and serves as a regional catalyst for change in a global environment through accessible and affordable academic and career-oriented education, lifelong learning, and community partnerships.

Training and business support services are available through the college's Entrepreneurship Innovation Institute for students interested in starting a career and or business in renewable energy. Starting salaries for the field range from \$36,000 to \$42,000 annually.

Students successfully completing the program will be able to continue their education by enrolling in the college's University Partnership program, which enables students to earn a bachelor's degree from one of several Ohio universities without having to leave Lorain's campus. Students may also earn a one-year technical certificate or stackable certificate of completion.

Enrollment: The proposed program is already generating student interest. The college is projecting an enrollment of twelve full-time students in 2009, and anticipates enrollment to grow to twenty-two full-time students by 2010.

Curriculum: The college formed a partnership with Cuyahoga Community College, Lakeland County Community and Stark State College of Technology in response to regional employers' need for skilled trained technicians to install, service and control wind turbine systems. The partnership supports Ohio's *Strategic Plan for Higher Education* to link "all community colleges into a shared course and program network."

The institutions collaboratively identified courses that could be shared for the proposed program. In addition, the college's advisory committee consulted with the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology and three out-of-state colleges offering a similar program in the development of the curriculum.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college plans to use existing full- and part-time faculty, and appoint a new program coordinator from such faculty. In addition, to minimize start-up costs needed for the program, the college is working with the Great Lakes Science Center to use their existing wind turbine for the utility scale training required for the degree.

The college is financially prepared to operate the program.

Program Duplication: Cuyahoga Community College, Lakeland Community College and Stark State College of Technology submitted letters of support for the proposed program. The institutions are collaboratively working with Lorain to assure the proposed program is accessible and affordable to students in Ohio, and are willing to share “best practices” and resources with other institutions interested in developing this or similar programs.

End of Comment Period: August 26, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED	
	7/2/09
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

m/c