

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Washington State 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: Washington State Community College proposes an Associate of Applied Science in Agribusiness Management in response to the growing need for technically trained agricultural managers. A trained agribusiness manager works with individual farmers, groups of farmers, specific farming organizations and/or associations and teaches them about crop management; weed, pest and disease control; plant nutrient deficiencies; and advancements in technology to ensure their success.

Purpose/Mission: Washington State Community College's mission is to enrich the lives of students, families, and the community through education, training, community service and cultural activities. The proposed program will prepare graduates for agricultural careers, including crop consultant, horticultural assistant, production agriculturalist, soil conservationist, county extension office agent, field crop scout, and others. Starting salaries range from \$36,800 to \$48,000 annually.

Enrollment: The college is projecting an enrollment of twenty full-time and twenty part-time students beginning fall semester 2009, and anticipates student enrollment will grow to twenty-five full-time and twenty-five part-time students beginning January 2010. Prospective students have already inquired about the program and the college is maintaining a database of interested students.

Curriculum: Annually, more Ohio rural farmers and ranchers are enrolling in college for the first time or returning to college to acquire the education and training needed to be a successful farmer or rancher. Students in the program will develop an agricultural plan that could be used for the family farm or to start their own farm or business.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The program will be housed in the Division of Business, Engineering and Industrial Technologies. The Dean of the division will be responsible for the administration of the proposed program with the assistance of the Department Chair. The college plans to hire one full-time faculty member to teach the agribusiness courses and assist in the implementation of the program.

The college is financially prepared to initiate the program.

Program Duplication: Clark State Community College and Owens Community College, which offer a similar program, are more than seventy-five miles from the college. The college 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: August 26, 2009
No Comments received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED



Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

9/8/09

Date

m/c