

## REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION

### Eastern Gateway Community College Associate of Applied Business in Paralegal

#### **Request:**

Eastern Gateway Community College requests approval to offer an Associate of Applied Business degree in Paralegal in response to the need for trained paralegals in eastern Ohio. As one of Ohio's fastest growing occupations, paralegals conduct legal research and assist in the preparation of legal documents and client interviews.

#### **Background:**

Originally chartered in 1966 as Jefferson County Technical Institute, the college changed its name (in 2009) to Eastern Gateway Community College to reflect the college's broader mission, ability to offer degree programs that transfer to four-year institutions, and expanded service area that includes Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties. The goal of the college is to be student-centered, community-connected and future-focused.

#### **Curriculum and Enrollment:**

The curriculum was developed in cooperation with the paralegal program directors and faculty at Cuyahoga Community College and the University of Toledo. Both institutions will continue to provide guidance and expertise as the college plans to pursue American Bar Association accreditation. The program includes a practical experience, providing students the opportunity to work in a professional setting.

Graduates of the program will find employment opportunities in corporate legal departments, public and private law firms, government offices, real estate and title insurance firms, insurance companies, and banks. Starting salaries for individuals (with an associate's degree) entering the profession range from \$32,000 to \$44,000 annually.

The college is projecting an enrollment of fifteen full-time and three part-time students beginning fall 2011.

#### **Faculty and Resources:**

The college is financially prepared to offer the program and plans to add a full-time faculty member to support the program.

#### **Recommendation:**

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