

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION**LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant

Request:

Lorain County Community College requests approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant in response to the growing need for trained occupational therapist assistants in northern Ohio. Developed as a collaborative venture between the Allied Health & Nursing Division and the Erie, Huron, Ottawa Vocational Education (EHOVE) Career Center, the program expects to attract a broad spectrum of students who have an interest in this emerging field.

The *Ohio Job Outlook 2014: Occupational Employment Projections* publication lists occupational therapy assistants as one of the state's fastest growing occupations, with an anticipated growth in employment of twenty-seven (27) percent and the potential of 550 openings through 2014. Job vacancies across northern Ohio range from 8-20 percent, with some positions being vacant for more than one year.

Background:

Lorain County Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The college has a history of supporting new healthcare programs as evidenced by their delivery of programs at multiple satellite locations. The proposed program will complement the college's existing allied health and nursing programs, which currently serves over 1,200 students.

Curriculum and Enrollment:

The college is projecting an enrollment of twenty-five (25) full-time students beginning fall 2011. The program will be housed in the college's Division of Allied Health and Nursing and the institution will deliver specific courses at the EHOVE Career Center. The curriculum that will prepare students for careers in healthcare facilities, early intervention and long-term nursing homes, mental healthcare facilities, rehabilitative hospitals, clinics, health and wellness centers, and acute care programs. Graduates of the program potentially may earn annual salaries ranging from \$38,000 to \$48,000.

Faculty and Resources:

The college is financially prepared to offer the program. Existing faculty are in place to teach in the program and a full-time program director has been hired that will be responsible for the program's management, fieldwork coordination, maintaining accreditation standards, scheduling classes, and program assessment.

Recommendation:

The program clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for associate degree programs. No concerns were raised during the review.