

## **BACKGROUND AND REQUEST**

### **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY Bachelor of Applied Horticulture, Salem Campus**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**This program meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate degrees. Approval is recommended, with a required progress report on program implementation by September 30, 2011.**

**Request:** Kent State University requests approval for a Bachelor of Applied Horticulture to be delivered at the Salem regional campus. The proposed program builds from the associate degree in horticulture and provides preparation for management positions in green industries. The proposed program is also open to transfer students and students beginning at the freshman level. The curriculum is structured to support three concentration areas: urban forestry, landscape design and construction, and turf management, providing additional technical and professional depth for the student. Leadership for the proposed degree will be from the Department of Biological Sciences.

**Purpose/Mission:** The Bachelor of Applied Horticulture is designed to develop managerial-level expertise in landscape architecture, urban ecology, sports turf management, various niches in landscape design, plant propagation, and nursery operations through upper-division horticulture courses, business courses, and an internship program augmented by field-work and on-site instruction. The KSU Salem Campus provides unique resources for the program through the existing associate degree. The campus has a greenhouse and a well-developed arboretum on its 96-acre site, which includes a 25-acre mixed hardwood forest, a hosta garden, and a small lake; in addition the campus maintains a relationship with Draime Legacy Gardens (a self-sustaining educational field site including a ten-acre botanical garden in Trumbull County). These resources and business/academic connections will be more fully developed through the proposed baccalaureate program. Nationally, Ohio is one of the leading six states in the production of green industry goods and services. Horticulture is a well established business in northeast Ohio and green industry is an area for potential economic growth for the state. KSU's market research supports the expansion of horticulture education to meet current and future industry needs. The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati also have bachelor's degrees in horticulture, but these degree programs are not readily available to place-bound students in northeastern Ohio.

**Enrollments:** Kent State University anticipates an initial 10 FTEs in the program and 10 new FTEs every year thereafter. As a relatively small program, KSU will be required to submit a progress report on the Bachelor of Applied Horticulture by September 30, 2011 or with the completion of the first student cohort. The progress report must provide the following: student enrollment, a

profile of the students served by the program (e.g. demographics, employment status upon entry, credits/degrees earned upon entry,) current faculty and advising resources, anticipated budget and resource needs for the next year of the program, student retention, graduation and job placement information, and an assessment of program quality and viability. The progress report should also identify any concerns regarding the program and future planning for the program.

**Curriculum:** The curriculum is designed as a 2 + 2 for students who have completed the Associate of Applied Science in Horticulture Technology and wish to complete a bachelor's degree. The curriculum will also provide opportunities for the student interesting in beginning a bachelor's degree in horticulture as a first-year student. Students are required to complete KSU's liberal education requirements, and additional major requirements (business, computer systems, populations and environment, geography and geology) as well as upper division requirements in horticulture, including professional practice opportunities and a practicum for a total required 125-131 semester hours.

**Resource/Faculty Needs:** Kent State University has faculty, staff and facility resources to support the proposed degree program in its initial years. Future expansion of the program will likely require one or two additional full-time horticulture and/or geography faculty supplemented by adjunct faculty.