

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Clark State Community College

Recommendation

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

Request: Clark State Community College proposes an Associate of Applied Science in Geospatial Technology in response to the growing need for trained geospatial technicians. It is projected that more than 5,000 geographic information system (GIS) technicians will be needed in Ohio within the next three to five years to fill entry level positions in business and industry, government, health, tourism, and transportation.

Purpose/Mission: The purpose of Clark State Community College is to "foster individual and community prosperity through access to the highest quality, learning-centered education."

Enrollment: The college is projecting an enrollment of sixteen full-time and ten part-time students beginning fall semester 2010, and anticipates enrollment will grow to twenty-three full-time and thirteen part-time students by January 2011.

College Tech Prep representatives from the region's high schools are developing a new GIS program to ensure that high school students interested in this career path will have a seamless transition into the associate program at the college.

Curriculum: The curriculum is structured to provide students the necessary skills to become GIS analysts and technicians, surveying and mapping technicians, and cartographers, and includes courses such as GIS software, data modeling and database design, elements of cartography, spatial analysis, and surveying. Graduates of the program will find career opportunities with starting salaries ranging from \$34,000 to \$42,000 annually.

Currently, the college is in discussion with Kent State University and the University of Akron to establish articulation agreements for students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in GIS technology. Additional GIS technology baccalaureate programs are available at Cleveland State University, Ohio University, and The Ohio State University.

Faculty/Resource Needs: The college is financially prepared to offer the program. The college plans to hire an additional full-time faculty member to complement the existing faculty identified to teach in the program. In addition, several classrooms and labs were renovated to support the program using Future Jobs funds.

Program Duplication: Currently, the program is not offered at any other two-year public institution within ninety miles of the college (Columbus State Community College and James A. Rhodes State College offer similar programs). The college is willing to collaborate and share best practices with other institutions interested in developing this or similar programs.