EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Associate in Applied Science in Surgical Technology

Big Sandy Community and Technical College

A Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program

Mission, Influence, Organization

The proposed Associate in Applied Science in Surgical Technology is consistent with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and institutional missions. The missions of KCTCS and Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) articulate the need for associate degrees to provide a more educated and highly skilled workforce, which this AAS in Surgical Technology will do.

Program Description

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings, such as medical offices, out-patient clinics, and the operating room. A surgical technologist possesses expertise in the theory and application of sterile and aseptic techniques and combines the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures, implementation tools, and technologies to facilitate a physician’s performance of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic procedures. The surgical technologist works under the supervision of a surgeon to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. This individual ensures that the operating room environment is safe, that equipment functions properly, and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety.

The proposed program will provide clinical experience built upon classroom instruction in the basic sciences, patient care, aseptic techniques, and surgical procedures. Students enrolled in Surgical Technology are required to achieve a minimum grade of “C” in each Surgical Technology course. Programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), and graduates are eligible to take the certifying examination offered by the National Board on Certification for Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA).

Supportive Data

A local needs survey conducted in fall 2008 revealed 16 immediate openings for a surgical technologist and an anticipated need of 10 additional positions annually over the next four years.
Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow much faster than average for all occupations through the year 2016 as the volume of surgeries increases. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, surgical technology is one of the fastest growing professions; demand is expected to increase 43 percent in the next 5-10 years.

The Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) has passed a resolution stating the preference for the associate degree as the educational model for entry-level practice. The AST encourages those programs which do not currently offer an associate degree to offer one for the future preparation of students. Local hospitals and surgeons have also requested that local colleges raise the educational standards for surgical technology due to the increased technological demands of the position.

**Resources**

The funding will be through the provision of space and necessary equipment at the hospital (fully equipped operating room and classroom), Perkins funding for faculty salary, reallocation of internal funds for supplies. No additional funding will be required.

**Conclusion**

This proposed program is consistent with the missions of KCTCS and Big Sandy Community and Technical College. There is an approved curriculum for the program. Local and state needs support the establishment of this program. BSCTC has identified resources to support this program. The approval of this program will assist the college in meeting needs locally and nationally as well as internationally although it is expected that the majority of the program graduates will stay in the Big Sandy area and serve the needs of the medical institutions.