Recommendation

That the Board of Regents approve an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Electrical Technology for Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC) with tracks in Industrial Electrician and Construction Electrician to be implemented in Fall 2015.

Rationale

- The proposed AAS degree and tracks are consistent with the missions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and Gateway Community and Technical College and supports the statewide postsecondary education strategic agenda and the statewide strategic implementation plan.
- Gateway Community and Technical College is currently approved to offer diplomas and certificates in Electrical Technology and has the facilities, equipment, and faculty available to support this program.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014-15), the number of electricians is expected to grow faster than average at 20 percent between 2012-22. Nationally, this equals a projected job growth of 114,700 positions by 2022. The growth is due to the increased need for wiring as technology and equipment increases in home and business construction. The growth can also be traced to the need for existing building upgrades. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2012), Kentucky has 2,290 electricians in the state. With the projected increase in employment, there is a critical need to train more licensed electricians.
- The proposed AAS degree in Electrical Technology will provide Northern Kentucky with a local two year degree and training program in the electrical field that will enable students to move beyond minimum licensing requirements, and obtain a traditional, transferable degree.

Background

According to the Kentucky Public Postsecondary Education Diversity Policy and Framework for Institution Diversity Plan Development, Gateway Community and Technical College has automatic eligibility.

An executive summary of the proposal is attached. A copy of the full proposal has been forwarded to each member of the Board’s Academic Affairs and Curriculum Committee.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Associate in Applied Science in Electrical Technology

Gateway Community and Technical College

A Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program

Centrality to the Institution’s Mission and Consistency with State’s Goals

Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC) provides high quality, affordable, accessible, and inclusive postsecondary education and training resulting in a positive contribution to the economic vitality of the region and enhanced quality of life for all citizens. The College lives its mission through collaborative partnerships with business and community leaders, colleges and universities, the K-12 education system, and local nonprofit agencies involved in economic development. Consistent with this mission, GCTC develops new programs to meet the demands of an evolving workforce and its educational needs. The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Electrical Technology program will better position GCTC to meet the workforce needs of its service region and Kentucky as a whole. By providing additional qualified workers, the program will help GCTC maximize the impact of postsecondary education’s contribution to improving the economic vitality of Kentucky and fulfilling state goals.

Program Quality and Student Success

Gateway Community and Technical College’s AAS in Electrical Technology is a high-demand program that is well-supported by the local union and companies in the region. The program uses grant support to actively recruit under-represented populations such as women and veterans. Many students are non-traditional students, who already work in the field and seek certification.

The technical and general education courses currently offered in Gateway’s Electrical Technology program are delivered in a variety of formats including online, hybrid, weekend and accelerated course offerings. While many courses will be taught in the traditional face-to-face format, technology will be integrated through the use of industry standard curriculum modules and Blackboard-enhanced instruction.

The enrollment in the program, and completion of it, will dramatically improve an individual’s employability and earning power. The addition of an AAS degree adds the transferability option to Electrical Technology students. The proposed AAS degree will become a part of an articulation agreement with local universities to expand transfer options for students. The program will also strengthen and expand partnerships with business, industry, government, non-profit, and other educational entities to meet Kentucky’s workforce and community needs. Gateway’s award-winning Workforce Solutions is also a part of the equation, as many of the students in the program are currently employed.
Program Demand/Unnecessary Duplication

The primary occupation aligned with GCTC’s Electrical Technology program is electrician (Federal occupation code: 47-2111). The Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook describes the type of work done by Electricians as installing and maintaining electrical power, communications, lighting, and control systems in homes, businesses, and factories. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2014-15), the number of electricians is expected to grow faster than average at 20 percent between 2012-22. Nationally, this equals a projected job growth of 114,700 positions by 2022. The growth is due to the increased need for wiring as technology and equipment increases in home and business construction. The growth can also be traced to the need for existing building upgrades. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2012), Kentucky has 2,290 electricians in the state. With the projected increase in employment, there is a critical need to train more licensed electricians.

Adding the AAS in Electrical Technology degree to GCTC’s current offering of Electrical Technology certificates and diplomas, will expand students’ educational options and meet the needs of regional employers. The addition of the AAS will increase the students’ employability and wage earning potential, while providing a clear pathway to a bachelor’s degree. In addition, the degree will provide Northern Kentucky with a local two year degree and training program in the electrical field. This addition will enable students to move beyond minimum licensing requirements, and obtain a traditional, transferable degree.

The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services for The Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area comprised of the following counties: Indiana – Dearborn, Ohio, and Union; Kentucky – Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton; Ohio – Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren projects a growth rate for Electricians of 13.9 percent by 2020 with annual openings of 180 positions and a median wage of $24.84 per hour as of September 2012.

The Kentucky Department for Workforce Development, Office of Employment and Training projects a growth rate of 7.84 percent for Electricians in Kentucky (2012-2022) with annual openings of 215 positions and an average wage of $22.80 per hour as of 2013.

Cost and Funding of the Proposed Program

Gateway currently offers the certificate and diploma options for the Electrical Technology program; therefore, additional classes will not need to be added and additional faculty are not required. Sufficient tuition revenue is expected to sustain the cost of the program with current projected student enrollment in the program.

Program Review and Assessment

A program assessment plan will be used to collect data from a variety of sources to assess the effectiveness of the program including its faculty, the curriculum, and the skills and knowledge of graduates of the program. These assessments will focus on an evaluation of many aspects of
the program including the curriculum, the faculty, goals and objectives, admissions, and academic performance. Data will be collected on graduation rates, retention rates, and overall student program GPA.

Faculty will use a variety of formative and summative assessment practices to measure the degree to which the technical and general education competencies are being met. The results of these assessments will be folded into the end of year program evaluation as part of the cycle of assessment and improvement.

Data collected as well as feedback from faculty, advisory committee members, and the administration will be analyzed by the program faculty and administration to determine if the goals set forth in the mission statement, educational philosophy, and terminal objectives are being satisfied.

**Conclusion**

The proposed Electrical Technology AAS degree is consistent with the missions of KCTCS and Gateway Community and Technical College and supports the statewide postsecondary education strategic agenda and implementation plan. There is an approved curriculum for the program with regional needs that support the establishment of this program. A program evaluation plan is in place and GCTC has resources available to implement this program.