Recommendation

That the Board of Regents approve an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Electrical Technology with tracks in Construction Electrician, a Diploma in Construction Electrician, certificates in Electrical Construction, Electrician Trainee Level I, Electrician Trainee Level II, Residential Electricity Level I, and Residential Electricity Level II for Madisonville Community College (MCC) to be implemented in fall 2017.

Rationale

- The proposed AAS degree is consistent with the missions of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and MCC and supports the statewide postsecondary education strategic agenda and the statewide strategic implementation plan.
- This program prepares students to be commercial or residential electricians.
- In the Commonwealth of Kentucky, an individual must have eight years of verifiable experience before being allowed to sit for the Master Electrician licensure exam. Under an agreement with the Kentucky Department of Housing, Building, and Construction, the KCTCS Electrical Technology AAS will be accepted as fulfilling three of those years of experience, leaving only five years’ experience before licensure eligibility.
- The Kentucky Future Skills Report shows job openings over the next five years to be 104 in Western Kentucky, with the average wage being $54,144.
- Reallocation of an existing salary line and use of gift funds will cover the needs of the program. Most peripheral needs are already covered through existing services. Most of the needs for the program will be met through existing funding. MCC has had an electrical program previously, and some of that inventory will be repurposed.
- Most residential and commercial electricians are self-employed. They work on their own and typically do not hire additional electricians for their businesses. The MCC employer survey results reflect the reality of program graduates creating their own jobs through entrepreneurship. Students who pursue the Electrical Technology program will also be well qualified for future employment in the construction industry.
- This proposed program is consistent with the missions of KCTCS and MCC. There is an approved curriculum for the program. Local and state employment needs support the establishment of this program, and MCC has the resources available to implement it.

Background

According to the Kentucky Public Postsecondary Education Diversity Policy and Framework for Institution Diversity Plan Development, MCC 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

Madisonville Community College

A Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program

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

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Electrical Technology program clearly supports the mission of MCC with a focus on the education and employability of students. The electrical program will provide viable options for an increased number of students graduating with the necessary skill set relative to the electrical/construction industry. The institution’s mission is to advance an enduring and enthusiastic commitment to student-centered learning and achievement.

The Electrical Technology program will support the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) strategic agenda policy objectives of student success, opportunity, and impact. The Electrical Technology program will also support the statewide implementation plan through adequate and outcomes-based funding. The electrical program is accessible, flexible, fiscally prudent, and employs creative and innovative approaches to educating a competitive Kentucky workforce.

B. Program Quality and Student Success

The appropriate faculty, physical facilities, equipment, and library resources, and will be available to implement a successful program and facilitate student learning. MCC will offer the established Electrical Technology curriculum. Student success will be a primary focus supported by several different college programs and initiatives.

C. Program Demand/Unnecessary Duplication

This program prepares students to be commercial or residential electricians. In the Commonwealth of Kentucky, an individual must have eight years of verifiable experience before being allowed to sit for the Master Electrician licensure exam. Under an agreement with the Kentucky Department of Housing, Building, and Construction, the KCTCS Electrical Technology AAS will be accepted as fulfilling three of those years of experience, leaving only five years’ experience before licensure eligibility. This will attract not only new students wanting to pursue their electrical license, but also incumbent workers who want to finish their experience while pursuing a degree.

The Kentucky Future Skills Report shows job openings over the next five years to be 104 in Western Kentucky, with the average wage being $54,144. Most residential and commercial electricians are self-employed. They work on their own and typically do not hire additional
electricians for their businesses. The MCC employer survey results reflect the reality of program graduates creating their own jobs through entrepreneurship. Students who pursue the Electrical Technology program will also be well qualified for future employment in the construction industry.

D. Cost and Funding of the Proposed Program

Reallocation of an existing salary line and use of gift funds will cover the needs of the program. Most peripheral needs are already covered through existing services. Most of the needs for the program will be met through existing funding. MCC has had an electrical program previously, and some of that inventory will be repurposed.

E. Program Review and Assessment

MCC has implemented a uniform unit-by-unit planning and evaluation process to assess the effectiveness of its educational programs. The process integrates planning, evaluation, and budget development, is undertaken within all administrative areas of the college, and is consistent with KCTCS Board of Regents Policies, Sections 4.3 and 4.9 and KCTCS Administrative Policies and Procedures, Section 4.9.1.

All academic degree programs complete the following planning and evaluation documents annually: dashboard of key performance indicators, annual plan, annual outcomes, and annual budget request. The program dashboard includes measures of direct and indirect learning outcomes (student evaluation of instruction results, Community College Survey of Student Engagement [CCSSE] results, retention and graduation rates, employer satisfaction data, etc.). The Office of Grants, Planning, and Effectiveness assists program coordinators in identifying appropriate measures and collecting outcomes data.

As a new associate degree program, the results of the college program review will also be forwarded to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) staff for review after three years. Upon a successful Council review, the program will be placed on the regular five-year CPE institutional program review cycle.

F. Conclusion

This proposed program is consistent with the missions of KCTCS and MCC. There is an approved curriculum for the program. Local and state employment needs support the establishment of this program, and MCC has the resources available to implement it.