

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item recommends approval of five new Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree programs to be offered at Danville Area Community College, Kankakee Community College, Richland Community College, Southwestern Illinois College, and Triton College.

Action Requested: That the Board of Higher Education approve the following programs at the colleges indicated:

- A.A.S. in Health Information Technology at Danville Area Community College;
- A.A.S. in Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies at Kankakee Community College;
- A.A.S. in Radiological Technology at Richland Community College;
- A.A.S. in Respiratory Care at Southwestern Illinois College; and
- A.A.S. in Leadership for Paramedics at Triton College.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By statute, the Board of Higher Education is responsible for approving new associate degree programs proposed by public community colleges. The Board's approval criteria, defined in administrative rules, address relevance to college mission, academic control, faculty and staff, support services, financial resources, student demand, employer demand, curriculum, and congruence with Board policies and priorities. Before a recommendation for approval of an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program is submitted to the Board of Higher Education for approval, staff from the Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, and the State Board of Education review the proposal. Once agreement is reached, either the Board of Higher Education or the Illinois Community College Board may approve the program first. The community colleges and the ICCB will be developing procedures over the next two years to comply with *The Illinois Commitment's* call for end-of-program assessment of student learning for all programs. This item recommends approval of five new A.A.S. degree programs at five community colleges.

Danville Area Community College

- A.A.S. in Health Information Technology

Danville Area Community College is seeking approval to offer an Associate in Applied Science degree in Health Information Technology. The program is designed to prepare students for employment as health information technicians capable of performing in a variety of healthcare and business environments, including hospitals, physician's offices and group practices, insurance companies, and specialized health registries. The curriculum consists of coursework in biomedical sciences, healthcare data content and structure, healthcare delivery systems, clinical classification systems, reimbursement methodology, information technology and an internship, in addition to general education. This curriculum was developed according to the guidelines outlined by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) for accreditation and prepares students for completing the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) examination, although no licensure is required in Illinois.

The College anticipates an enrollment of eight full-time and four part-time students the first year, increasing to 18 full-time and six part-time students by the third year. Labor market information provided by the College supports a district-wide interest in this program among students and local employers. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, statewide employment in this occupation is expected to grow at nearly three times the average growth rate for all occupations through the year 2008. The program will require one new and one existing part-time faculty members the first year. The cost of implementing this program will be approximately \$89,000 the first year, and \$65,000 in the second and third years. These costs largely reflect expenditures on equipment, library resource support, and administration of the program.

Kankakee Community College

- A.A.S. in Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies

Kankakee Community College is seeking approval to offer an Associate in Applied Science degree in Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies. The curriculum consists of coursework in introductory legal assisting and paralegal practices, business law, introductory and advanced legal research and writing, civil and criminal litigation, real estate and corporate law, legal office technology, law office management, special topics in paralegal studies, and a legal internship in addition to general education. The curriculum in the program was developed according to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) guidelines for paralegal programs and prepares individuals for completing the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam (PACE) resulting in the credential of Registered Paralegal (RP). However, no licensure or certification is required for practice in Illinois.

The College anticipates a combined enrollment of 10 full-time and 20 part-time students each year for the first three years. Labor market information provided by the College supports the need, both statewide and within the district, for trained paralegals and legal assistants. According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, paralegals and legal assistants are considered one of the fastest growing occupations, statewide, through the year 2008. The program will require three new part-time faculty and one existing full-time faculty member the first year. The combined new cost for the program is not expected to exceed \$25,000 in the first three years of operation.

Richland Community College

- A.A.S. in Radiological Technology

Richland Community College is seeking approval to offer an Associate in Applied Science degree in Radiological Technology. The program is designed to prepare individuals for employment as radiologic technologists in healthcare settings such as hospitals, physician's offices and group practices, and medical laboratories. The curriculum consists of coursework in human anatomy and physiology; introductory, intermediate, and advanced radiology; introductory and advanced radiography; radiation physics; patient care; pathology; and clinical practice in addition to general studies. The curriculum was developed according to the standards for radiologic technology programs outlined by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT), and will prepare students for completing the Registered Technologist (RT) examination offered through the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

The College anticipates an enrollment of five full-time and 10 part-time students the first year, increasing to 10 full-time and 20 part-time students by the third year. Labor market information provided by the College indicates a strong interest by students and local employers for this program. The program will require one new full-time faculty member the first year and second year. The cost for implementing this program will be approximately \$60,500 the first year, and \$99,500 in the second and third years. Higher second and third year costs reflect the anticipated hiring of additional faculty for the program.

Southwestern Illinois College

- A.A.S. in Respiratory Care

Southwestern Illinois College is seeking approval to offer an Associate in Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care. This program will train individuals for employment as advanced-level practitioners capable of safely and effectively administering respiratory services to all types of patients of all ages, in and out of hospital settings. The degree will train students at the advanced-practitioner level and builds upon the College's existing certificate program, which trains students as entry-level practitioners. The curriculum consists of coursework in entry-level, intermediate- and advanced-level respiratory care practices and procedures, patient assessment, pharmacology, cardiopulmonary anatomy, physiology, pathology, and a required respiratory care clinical, in addition to general education.

The existing and proposed curricula were developed according to the new standards and guidelines for respiratory care programs published by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care Education (CoARC), the accrediting body for respiratory care programs, and will prepare students for the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) examination to obtain their licensure as a Respiratory Care Practitioner. Licensure is required for employment in the state of Illinois. The College's existing certificate program currently is CoARC accredited, and the proposed degree program is expected to meet CoARC's new standards and guidelines for continued accreditation. The College anticipates an enrollment of six full-time and four part-time students the first year, increasing to ten full-time and six part-time by the third year. Labor market information provided by the College supports the need for respiratory care practitioners both district and statewide. The program will require two existing faculty the first year. No incremental costs will be incurred.

Triton College

- A.A.S. Leadership for Paramedics

Triton College is seeking approval to offer an Associate in Applied Science degree entitled Leadership for Paramedics. The program will prepare licensed paramedics for supervisory and management positions within the field of emergency medical services. The curriculum consists of coursework in sociology of leadership, fundamentals of employment for allied health workers, human relations in labor and management, and risk management in emergency medical services, in addition to general education. The College anticipates an enrollment of 10 part-time students the first year, increasing to 20 students by the third year. Labor market information provided by the College indicates an interest in a management capstone educational program for practicing paramedics within the local area. The program will require one existing full-time and one existing part-time faculty member the first year. The program will cost approximately \$18,000 the first year, \$36,000 the second year, and \$51,000 the third year. Higher second and third year costs reflect the hiring of a full-time program coordinator and necessary supply purchases for the program.

The staff recommends that the Board of Higher Education approve the following resolutions:

The Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority for Danville Area Community College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Health Information Technology.

The Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority for Kankakee Community College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies.

The Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority for Richland Community College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Radiological Technology.

The Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority for Southwestern Illinois College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Respiratory Care.

The Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority for Triton College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Leadership for Paramedics.