

DATE: January 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Walters State Community College, Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Information Technology

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The proposed program will provide training for individuals interested in entering the general field of information technology to meet the needs of business and industry in the service area.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2007

Commission staff has reviewed program proposals according to the following academic standards and criteria adopted by the Commission referenced below:

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with the mission of the college to serve a diverse geographic service area, providing high-quality education and training opportunities.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: No additional courses are required. The proposed curriculum requires completion of 60 semester hours, distributed as follows:

<u>Curriculum Requirements</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
General Education	16
Major Field Core	30
Electives	<u>14</u>
Total	60

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: Admission, retention, and graduation requirements will be the same as standard institutional requirements of other A.A.S. programs offered by WSCC and are published in the institution's *Catalog*.

Student Projections	Projected Program Productivity		
	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time	Graduates
Year 1	8	5	0
Year 2	9	7	7
Year 3	12	8	9

1.1.20D FACULTY: No additional faculty is required.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: Current library resources are adequate.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed program will be housed in the Department of Computer and Information Science in the Division of Technical Education. The Program Director will coordinate the program.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: None indicated.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: Current facilities and instructional equipment are adequate.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: Based on survey responses from areas business and industry, and currently enrolled students, there is both need and interest in the proposed program. Although there is a high demand for computer programmers, web designers, and other computer related jobs, those jobs are not located in rural areas. There is a need for programming in rural business communities that currently is not being addressed.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: The proposed program will be offered within the WSCC service area.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: N/A

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: Accreditation through the Association of Collegiate Business Schools (ACBSP) and programs will be submitted for review in the interim report due in 2008.

1.1.20N ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT (Graduate Programs): N/A

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: Resulting from the isolation of rural areas, the U.S. Department of Labor is supporting a \$1.9 million grant through the Center for Workforce Education to address the needs. No state funds are associated with implementing the proposed program.

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first three years following approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance, and others set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. The Commission may choose to extend the period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.