

Thomas Nelson Community College Board  
Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Services Committee  
Meeting Minutes (June 17, 2015)

Members Present: Ms. Elizabeth Tai, Mr. John McMillan, Jr., Ms. Christine Gergely

College Staff Present: Dr. Lonnie Schaffer, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Dan Lufkin, Vice President for Student Affairs

Guest: Mrs. Patricia Harris

Committee Chair, Ms. Tai, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Ms. Tai, with assistance from Dr. Schaffer, provided context for the Committee's discussion of the proposed Career Studies Certificates (CSC) in Manufacturing Technology and Mechatronics Technology. These CSCs were developed as part of the College's TAACCT grant from the Department of Labor to train dislocated workers, unemployed veterans, and other adults served by the Workforce Investment Board and provide them with an industry recognized credential and assistance in finding employment.

Mrs. Pat Harris, retired dean and consultant for the College's initiatives in Advanced Integrated Manufacturing (AIM) and Rapid Employment in Advanced Integrated Manufacturing (RE-AIM), described the purpose and structure of the CSCs. Participants will initially be enrolled in a cohort in the CSC in Manufacturing Technology, a 16-week program delivered over an 8-week period. The first course, IND 106, will be delivered in two weeks and includes modules to prepare participants for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), which certifies that participants have met a specific level (silver) of workplace readiness skills. Upon completion, participants will be required to complete the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) to ensure prerequisite skills in mathematics and English to pursue the remaining college credit courses in the program. Students who do not complete IND 106 with a grade of "C" or better will be required to retake the course and join another cohort. Student support services will provide advising and tutoring as necessary.

Before completing the CSC in Manufacturing Technology, participants will be encouraged to obtain the Virginia Manufacturer's Association Manufacturing Technician 1 (MT1) certification as a requirement to be included on a preferred employment list for placement with one of the College's industry partners. Completers of this CSC can pursue one of four pathways – employment, the CSC in Mechatronics, the A.A.S. Technical Studies degree in Industrial Technology, or non-credit computerized numerical control (CNC) machining training currently under development.

The CSC in Mechatronics is a 27-credit (including 6 credits from the CSC in Manufacturing Technology) 15-week program modeled after the successful certificate program offered at Virginia Western Community College and will prepare participants for the Siemens Mechatronics Systems Certification Program (SMSCP) Level 1 certification.

In less than a year, RE-AIM participants will have the potential to earn at least two credit credentials and three industry-recognized certifications that provide a high degree of employability among supporting local industry partners.

Key features of the proposed CSCs:

- Accelerated programs targeted for workers needing skills for immediate employment
- NCRC certification to provide greater employability
- Industry recognized certifications (MT1 and SMSCP Level 1)
- Comprehensive support for academic and career success utilizing PluggedIn Virginia partner and iBEST program
- Innovative curriculum delivery utilizing project-based learning
- Stackable credentials: CSC in Manufacturing Technology may lead to CSC in Mechatronics Technology or the A.A.S. degree in Technical Studies in Industrial Technology
- 75% of program courses have no course prerequisites, removing traditional barriers to credit instruction.

Discussion followed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Without a quorum, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Board approval of the Career Studies Certificates in Manufacturing Technology and Mechatronics Technology.

Adjournment

Ms. Tai adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lonnie J. Schaffer  
Vice President for Academic Affairs