

CHARACTERISTICS OF EXCELLENCE IN TECH PREP PROGRAMS

Tech Prep is more than articulation agreements or advanced standing programs. It is a reconceptualization of the nature of curriculum and is designed to train a more flexible, knowledgeable, and technically adept workforce. Tech Prep is aimed primarily at students in the general education track who need higher level career skills. Tech Prep programs should be developed and measured in terms of the following components:

PARTNERSHIPS

effective secondary/postsecondary partnership agreements that trace a four-year technology curriculum through an Associate Degree or, in certain cases, a two-year certificate

involvement of local business partnerships in planning a coordinated curriculum, including evidence of local support in both participation and resources

CURRICULUM

coordinated curriculum that emphasizes as outcomes enhanced skills that would not be possible if secondary and postsecondary curricula were followed separately, and that demonstrate curricular restructuring beyond simple articulation and advanced placement processes

curricular modification at both secondary and postsecondary levels, particularly structural changes that serve general education track students currently not in vocational or college-prep tracks

emphasis on enriched, applied instruction in mathematics, science, communications, and technology principles at the secondary level

emphasis on more advanced course work at the postsecondary level, with the production of master technicians as a desired curricular outcome where possible

MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

strong informational program components

efforts to involve parents, adult students, and employers

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

ongoing commitment to applying the Tech Prep Model

evidence of substantive fiscal support

full-time coordinator

faculty and staff development (innovative programs)

GUIDANCE AND STUDENT SUPPORT

commitment to staff development activities, incentive programs (scholarships)

guidance, career information, counseling

services to special populations

EVALUATION

documented evidence of sustained effectiveness

data showing program comprehensiveness, in number and kind of partners, range of programs addressed, degree of curricular reform at all levels, and relevance to employment needs

Source: AACC. Information sheet which accompanied the 1998 Parnell Tech Prep Awards application