

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
Curriculum Program Application to Captive/Co-opted Groups

Martin Community College  
Entrepreneurship C25490  
Captive/Co-opted: Bertie Correctional Institution

**Program Planning:** Martin Community College (MCC) is seeking approval for the Entrepreneurship Certificate program (C25490) to begin Fall 2019 at Bertie Correctional Institution (BCI), a state correctional facility in the college's service area.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Martin Community College on November 20, 2018. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of MCC have certified the following:

- They are supportive of providing this proposed program to inmate students at Bertie Correctional Institution as part of the Prison Education Program (PEP) with the state's Division of Adult Correction.
- They have assessed the need for the proposed program and the resources required to maintain a viable program and certify that the college can operate the proposed program efficiently and effectively within the resources available to the college.
- They understand that the proposed program will require a program accountability report that will include items such as student success measures, enrollment trends, and completion rates three years after implementation of the program.
- College and prison officials have jointly planned the program to align with the NCCCS curriculum standard for the Entrepreneurship Certificate Program, and prison officials have committed to providing appropriate classroom space and a sufficient number of students who meet the educational requirements of the program.
- The Division of Adult Correction has identified this as a high-priority educational offering and is supporting the program in the following ways: 1) ensuring the availability of a student cohort for the program; 2) paying the students' tuition; 3) providing appropriate classroom, lab, and computer resources; and 3) purchasing necessary textbooks and other instructional equipment/materials needed for program start-up.

**Program Rationale:** Martin Community College indicates the following:

- The Institute of High Education Policy's Learning to Reduce Recidivism referenced a study of 1,000 justice involved individuals, comparing their prison educational record with recidivism. This showed an extremely impressive fact: "This study found that, while earning a GED or completing a vocational program did reduce recidivism, completing a degree had a particularly significant impact, reducing the likelihood of re-incarceration by 62 percent (Batiuk et al 2005)
- Additionally, "data collected by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice show that Texas justice involved who earn a degree while incarcerated return to prison at a rate of 27%, compared to a 43% recidivism rate for the state prison system as a whole." This

represents a reduction in recidivism of 37.2% for those who earned an associate degree in prison.

- The program is designed to award academic credits for each of the semester-long courses providing life-skill education with the ultimate goal of awarding a degree to each justice involved individual who has earned the appropriate number of credits. Earning this degree will have the capacity of change the rest of their lives in three ways: 1) by the life skills gained in the courses to help them succeed in society; 2) by changing self-image from a hopeless criminal to a college graduate with much to offer the world; 3) and will also be a tremendous asset in searching for a job as a college graduate or setting up their own business.
- The Entrepreneur program will include a MCC staff position to act as an employment liaison between the business community, the small business centers, and the justice involved individual to facilitate communications and meetings: act as an advocate for the individuals as they are about to leave prison and as they transition back into society; act as sources of employment leads; and act as a source of information on education programs or small business opportunities that would provide additional training and vocational skills for the individual throughout the rest of their working careers.
- This staff person will initiate and develop relationships with employers statewide and will keep up to breast with governmental sources statewide who can act as partners to provide valuable information and resources.

**Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs:** The program is restricted to inmates housed in a prison facility within Martin Community College's service area, so it will not impact other college's programs.

**Curriculum Design:** The proposed program of study is in compliance with the State Board approved curriculum standard.

**Curriculum Description as Designated on Curriculum Standard:**

*The Entrepreneurship Certificate Curriculum provides a study of developing and enhancing individual and organizational creativity and innovation. Topics include that innovation needs to be applied to products, services, and processes to increase competitive advantages and added value to businesses. Upon completion, students should be able to apply innovation and creativity principles in any work place situation, their own or others.*

*Students will take courses in Innovation and Creativity, Entrepreneur Marketing, an introduction to the principles of entrepreneurship including individual readiness, sources of financing, budgeting, cash flow, developing business plans, and implementation of that plan.*

*Graduates will have the base knowledge to prepare to start and manage their own business or better understand success factors for the enterprise they may find themselves working for.*

**Contact(s):**

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