

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CURRICULUM PROGRAM APPLICATION
Fast Track for Action [FTFA*]**

Request:

The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the curriculum program at the listed college on the condition that equipment funds are available to the college and operating funds generated by the budget formula will permit the offering of this program without any special allocation of funds.

College of The Albemarle
Sustainable Agriculture (A15410)

Background:

Program applications must meet the following criteria in order to be placed on the Fast Track For Action (FTFA) program approval request presented to the State Board of Community Colleges as part of the consent agenda:

- The curriculum program title currently exists within the System and does not require the creation of a new program title and new curriculum standard;
- The application is complete, requires no further analysis or documentation, and has the endorsement of Academic Programs;
- There are no negative impact assessments from other colleges; and
- The college does not go outside of its service area for planning purposes.

Contact:

Ms. Jennifer Frazelle
Director

**PROGRAM APPLICATION
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
College of The Albemarle
Sustainable Agriculture (A15410)**

Program Planning: College of The Albemarle is seeking approval for the Sustainable Agriculture (A15410) program to begin Fall 2017. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at College of The Albemarle on April 19, 2016. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of College of The Albemarle have certified the following:

- The proposed program will enhance the workforce of North Carolina, will provide educational and training opportunities consistent with the mission of the college, and will not duplicate the opportunities currently offered.
- 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.
- The college will complete a program accountability report including student success measures, enrollment trends, completion rates, and employment data three years after implementation of the program.

Program Rationale: College of The Albemarle (COA) indicates the following:

- Graduates of the program should be able to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities. The college will provide assistance for entrepreneurs through their Small Business Center.
- The college surveyed thirty businesses within the service area. The survey indicated fifteen current openings, fifty-nine within the last two years and an anticipated fifty-seven openings within the next two years. The majority of the businesses indicated a need for employees with a minimum of their Associate in Applied Science degree.
- The college surveyed high school students within their service area to determine interest in the proposed program. Five hundred and seventeen high school students expressed interest in the program.
- COA plans to develop Sustainable Agriculture Career and College Promise programs in order to provide Associate in Applied Science pathways to high school students.
- The college plans to pursue articulation opportunities with North Carolina State University and Mount Olive University for students wanted to further their education with a bachelor's degree.

- The college has a state of the art greenhouse on site that can be utilized by the students in this program. Whatever is grown by the agriculture department will be utilized by the culinary students at COA. Additional produce will be donated to the Food Bank.
- The college received letters of support for the program from the Pasquotank County Center of the NC Cooperative Extension Service, B&S Enterprises (sales and service retailer of agricultural products), Tidewater Agronomics, Inc., and VA. Fork Produce Company in Edenton, NC.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Five community colleges are approved to offer the Sustainable Agriculture program. These five colleges are not located in contiguous counties, **therefore an impact assessment was not required.**

Implementation of Collaborative Plan: Not Applicable

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

Curriculum Description as Designated on Curriculum Standard:

These curriculum are designed to provide the entrepreneurial and technical skills necessary to manage a profitable, environmentally sound, community based small farm or agricultural business. The objective is the development of a workforce knowledgeable in sustainable agriculture practices. Students will learn the fundamentals of agriculture, focusing on crop production and business. Emphasis is placed on entrepreneurial and field training. Students will also learn the basic principles of our economic system and government policies and programs relating to agriculture. Graduates should qualify for a variety of jobs in agricultural businesses such as equipment, feed, and agricultural supply sales; store management; farm operations; wholesale and retail produce management; nursery operations; and environmental and agricultural education.

Sustainable Agriculture: *A program that focuses on agricultural principles and practices that, over the long term, enhance environmental quality, make efficient use of nonrenewable resources, integrate natural biological cycles and controls, and are economically viable and socially responsible; and that may prepare individuals to apply this knowledge to the solution of agricultural and environmental problems. Potential course work includes instruction in principles of agroecology, crop and soil sciences, entomology, horticulture, animal science, weed science and management, soil fertility and nutrient cycling, applied ecology, agricultural economics, and rangeland ecology and watershed management.*

Contact: Ms. Jennifer Frazelle, Director