STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Curriculum Program Applications
Fast Track for Action [FTFA*]

<u>**Request:**</u> The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the curriculum programs at the listed colleges on the condition that equipment funds are available to the colleges and operating funds generated by the budget formula will permit the offering of these programs without any special allocation of funds.

Forsyth Technical Community College
  Health Information Technology (A45360)

Roanoke-Chowan Community College
  Mechatronics Engineering Technology (A40350)

<u>**Background:**</u> 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.

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Program Application
Summary Evaluation Report
Forsyth Technical Community College
Health Information Technology (A45360)

Program Planning: Forsyth Technical Community College is seeking approval for the Health Information Technology (A45360) program to begin Spring 2018. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Forsyth and Stokes counties. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at Forsyth Technical Community College on April 27, 2017. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of Forsyth Technical Community College 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: Forsyth Technical Community College (FTCC) indicates the following:

- According to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, *the job outlook for the employment of medical records and health information technicians (HIT) in North Carolina is expected to increase from 5,160 in 2014 to 6,200 in 2024 (twenty percent). This occupation is expected to average about 220 opening each year during this period.*

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of HITs is projected to grow fifteen percent from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics associates the HIT faster growth rate to several factors*: 1.) An aging population will require more medical services, and HITs will be needed to organize and manage the older generations' health information data. 2.) The number of individuals who have access to health insurance is expected to continue to increase because of federal health insurance reform.*

- FTCC reported that in June 2017, there were forty-five job openings for Medical Records and Health Information Technology Technicians in Forsyth and Stokes counties.

- The Health Information Management Director at Novant Health provided a letter of support to FTCC that indicated, *"As a large healthcare provider in North Carolina, Novant Health is always looking for qualified professionals for our Health Information Management teams. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of candidates who have the training, education, and credentials we need. Having an accredited program within the Triad service area-a critical market for our organization-will work to fill the void of qualified graduates we seek to fulfill our mission."*

- The Assistant Vice President, Health Information Management and Clinical Coding Services, at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center notes, *"Our corporate division and Health Information/Records Management department will support the development of a Health Information program at FTCC. For some time, the need for health information technology has been discussed with college leaders, and this is exciting news."*

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Fourteen community colleges are approved to offer the Health Information Technology program. This program contains a clinical component; therefore, each college was provided with a program impact assessment from FTCC. There were three colleges that expressed concerns that clinical site placements may be affected, but they were supportive of the college pursing the program. Initially, Davidson County Community College did not concur with the impact assessment. This issue has been resolved. **All colleges approved to offer the program are in agreement with the impact assessment.**

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: *The Health Information Technology curriculum provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to process, analyze, abstract, compile, maintain, manage, and report health information. Students will supervise departmental functions; classify, code, and index diagnoses and procedures; coordinate information for cost control, quality management, statistics, marketing, and planning; monitor governmental and non-governmental standards; facilitate research; and design system controls to monitor patient information security. Graduates of this program may be eligible to write the national certification examination to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT). Employment opportunities include hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, health insurance organizations, outpatient clinics, physicians' offices, hospice, and mental health facilities.*

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STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Program Application
Summary Evaluation Report
Roanoke-Chowan Community College
Mechatronics Engineering Technology (A40350)

Program Planning: Roanoke-Chowan Community College (R-CCC) is seeking approval for the Mechatronics Engineering Technology (A40350) program to begin Fall 2018. The planning area is defined as the college's service area of Bertie, Hertford, and Northampton counties. All colleges were notified of the planning process for this program.

The proposed program was approved by the Board of Trustees at R-CCC on June 19, 2017. Minutes from this Board meeting were attached to the program application. The President and the Board of Trustees of R-CCC 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: Roanoke-Chowan Community College indicated the following**:**

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that employment opportunities for maintenance and machinery technicians would grow 16% between 2014-24. The NC Department of Commerce indicated 6% growth for mechatronic-type positions within the state; 16% increase for engineers; and 11% for maintenance and repair technicians.

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, electro-mechanical and industrial maintenance technician median earnings averaged $53,340 annually, nearly twice the average salary for Hertford County.

- Local industry surveys indicated a need for over one-hundred positions for maintenance, electro-mechanical technician, and similar positions within the college service area.

- The college received letters of support of the program from local companies including Purdue Farms, Hampton Farms, and Eddie Kane Steel. Companies indicated that they had to go outside the area to locate qualified individuals who could maintain, troubleshoot, and service modern automation equipment.

- Eddie Kane Steel would support a mentoring position that coincided with the mechatronics program.
- The college surveyed R-CCC students and Hertford County High School students to determine their interest in participating in the mechatronics program. Approximately 50 students expressed interest in enrolling in the program. The college plans to partner with local high schools to offer a pathway for the program through Career and College Promise.

- The college currently provides instruction for many of the courses it plans to offer for the new program within existing technical programs, therefore the cost of adding the program would be reasonable. Any additional purchases would be funded through Perkins and the college's Dominion Foundation.

Impact of the Proposed Program on Other Programs: Seventeen colleges are approved to offer the Mechatronics Engineering Technology program. None of these colleges are contiguous to the planning area of Roanoke-Chowan Community College, **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: *A course of study that prepares the students to use basic engineering principles and technical skills in developing and testing automated, servomechanical, and other electromechanical systems. Includes instruction in prototype testing, manufacturing and operational testing, systems analysis and maintenance procedures. Graduates should be qualified for employment in industrial maintenance and manufacturing including assembly, testing, startup, troubleshooting, repair, process improvement, and control systems, and should qualify to sit for Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute (PMMI) mechatronics or similar industry examinations.*

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