



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Jamestown Community College-Cattaraugus County
Campus: Master Plan Amendment to offer the Associate
in Science (A.S.) in Environmental Science

DATE: April 25, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for Jamestown Community College to offer a program in Environmental Science leading to an Associate in Science (A.S.) at the College's branch campus in Cattaraugus County?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its May 2019 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

On June 14, 2018, the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY) adopted a resolution permitting the SUNY Chancellor to seek Board of Regents authorization to amend the SUNY master plan to permit Jamestown Community College to offer an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree in Environmental Science at its Cattaraugus County Campus. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program represents the first program in the discipline area of the Biological Sciences at the Cattaraugus County Campus.

Background Information

SUNY seeks approval to authorize Jamestown Community College to offer a program in Environmental Science, which will lead to an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree, at its Cattaraugus County Campus. The same program was approved by the Department in 2011 for the main campus of Jamestown Community College in Jamestown, where it is currently offered.

The purpose of the Environmental Science program is to provide critical foundations for well-trained environmental scientists and citizen scientists to address the urgent and growing environmental challenges of the 21st Century and beyond. Students will be prepared to comprehend and critically evaluate contemporary environmental problems at the intersection of nature, human institutions, and scientific study. Students will be engaged in exploring the ethical dimensions of decisions associated with being responsible local and global citizens, as well as in understanding that a more sustainable world will nurture healthier ecosystems, vibrant human communities, and stronger economies. The program will prepare students for transfer into numerous four-year college and university baccalaureate programs, such as those in conservation science, ecology, environmental biology, environmental science, fisheries and wildlife biology, natural resources management, soil science, and sustainable agriculture. The program will also help meet the professional needs of students seeking careers in fields related to the environmental health of the planet.

An academic review of the proposed A.S. degree program has been completed by the Department, which has determined that the proposed program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. In addition, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of degree-granting institutions in the Western region of New York State. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact should the program be registered.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize Jamestown Community College to offer its first program in the Biological Sciences at its branch campus in Cattaraugus County. The amendment will be effective until May 7, 2020, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.

Timetable for Implementation

Amendments to SUNY's master plan require approval by the Governor. If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will forward the amendment to the Governor for his approval. Upon gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the program.