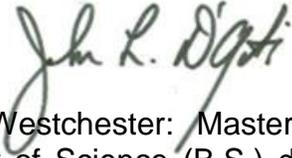




**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati 

**SUBJECT:** The College of Westchester: Master Plan Amendment to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Information Technology

**DATE:** November 2, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### **Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for The College of Westchester to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Information Technology?

### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

### **Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the full Board at its November 2017 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

### **Procedural History**

The College of Westchester has submitted a proposal for a B.S. degree program in Information Technology. A master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the College's first B.S. in the Physical Sciences disciplinary area.

### **Background Information**

The College of Westchester seeks a master plan amendment to allow it to offer a B.S. in Information Technology.

The College's decision to offer a B.S. degree in Information Technology was based on a reaffirmation of its core mission: to provide career-focused degree programs leading to gainful employment and need as expressed by their external advisory committee members and employers who currently hire the College's graduates. The curriculum for the B.S. in Information Technology was designed to offer students a well-rounded course of study with a strong emphasis on computer network administration, computer network security, and programming, and the proposed program adheres to the guidelines established by the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense knowledge units jointly sponsored by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. Complementing the classroom experience is an internship opportunity. Graduates of this program will have a marketable skill set along with demonstrable competencies in applying those skills in the workplace.

Initial program cohorts are anticipated to be small - 10 students entering in year one growing to 20 anticipated at the freshman level in year five. Over a five-year period, growth is expected to reach a total of 40 students in the fifth year. The College of Westchester has historically and successfully provided postsecondary educational programs to a wide range of students, including first generation college students who are of traditional college age (17 to 24) and adult learners.

An academic review of the faculty, curriculum and other program elements has been completed by the Department. The Department has determined that the proposed degree program meets the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

In August 2017, following its standard protocol, the Department conducted a canvass of institutions of higher education in the Hudson Valley region. There were no objections or statements of negative impact.

### **Related Regents Items**

N/A

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment to authorize The College of Westchester to offer its first baccalaureate-level program in the Physical Sciences discipline area, a B.S. in Information Technology. The amendment will be effective until November 30, 2018 unless the Department registers the degree program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the master plan amendment, the Department will register the program.