



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

To: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

From: John L. D'Agati

Subject: Bryant and Stratton College – Regents Authorization to authorize the College to award the Bachelor of Science degree at the Albany, Southtowns and Syracuse North campuses and Master Plan Amendment authorizing the College to offer Bachelor of Science programs in Healthcare Services Administration at the Albany, Southtowns and Syracuse North campuses

Date: November 28, 2011

Authorizations:

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents authorize Bryant and Stratton College to award the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree at the College's Albany location and Southtowns and Syracuse North branch campuses, and approve a master plan amendment for Bryant and Stratton, Buffalo, to offer Bachelor of Science (B.S.) programs in Healthcare Services Administration at the Albany, Southtowns and Syracuse North campuses?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

The question will come before the full Board for consideration at its December 2011 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Background Information

Bryant & Stratton College, Buffalo, seeks Regents authorization to award the Bachelor of Science degree at its Albany location and Southtowns (Orchard Park) and Syracuse North (Liverpool) branch campuses, and approval of a master plan

amendment to offer programs in Healthcare Services Administration leading to Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees. Regents authorization of the Bachelor of Science degree is required because the College is not currently authorized to award that degree title. Master plan amendment approval is needed to authorize the first baccalaureate level program at the Albany location and Syracuse North branch campus. It is also needed to authorize the Southtowns campus' first baccalaureate program in the disciplinary area of the Health Professions. The branch campus currently offers a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) program in General Management.

In November 2010, a readiness review team visited the Albany, Syracuse North and Southtowns locations of Bryant and Stratton College. The team met with the program director, campus director, liberal arts and sciences faculty, administrators and students at each location, and reviewed student portfolios, toured the facilities and observed classes. The review team cited a major strength of the programs as their “ability to articulate seamlessly” with the College's associate degree programs in medical assisting. They also recognized the strength of the advisory committees composed of local employers in health care that the College assembled to assist in planning for the programs, and the qualifications and credentials of the program directors.

Program Purpose: The proposed programs support the College's mission of providing career-oriented education “through a flexible, contemporary curriculum in a personalized environment.” The proposed programs will give students, particularly graduates of the College's related associate degree programs in medical assisting, pathways to furthering their study in the field.

Curriculum: The proposed programs require a minimum of 120 credits, including 10 required health services administration courses (30 credits) emphasizing finance, legal aspects in healthcare, disaster planning, long-term care management and information systems, and include two field experiences. The remaining major requirements are allied health (15 credits) and business courses (six credits). Research opportunities and field experiences provide insight into real-world applications of classroom learning.

Faculty and Students: Program directors for the proposed programs were hired in advance to further develop the curriculum and identify appropriate faculty, resources, and support. Each director holds a doctoral degree and high-level field experience directly related to the proposed programs. Appropriately qualified faculty are in sufficient numbers to support the programs, with plans in place to hire additional faculty:

Location:	Full-time Faculty		Part-time Faculty		Faculty to be hired	
	Content	Liberal Arts	Content	Liberal Arts	Content	Liberal Arts
Capital Region	8	7	10	13	2 PT	4 FT
Central NY	11	11	22	29	2 PT	4 FT
Western NY	7	13	26	62	2 PT	3 FT

Academic Resources: The library resources and campus facilities at the Albany, Southtowns and Syracuse North locations are fully sufficient to support the proposed programs. Students have access to over 59,000 online resources available through the College’s virtual library. Databases supplying specialized medical information include CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) with Full Text, Health Business Elite, Health Source-Consumer Edition, Health Source-Nursing/Academic Edition, and MEDLINE.

Need: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states that “employment of medical and health services managers is expected to grow 16 percent from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations. The healthcare industry will continue to expand and diversify, requiring managers to help ensure smooth business operations.”

Long-term occupational projections within New York State for the same ten-year period reveal strong employment prospects:

Title: Medical and Health Services Managers	Employment		Change		Average Annual Openings		
	2008	2018	Level	Percent	Total	Growth	Replacement
Statewide	27,280	28,660	1,380	5.1	660	140	520
Capital Region	1,790	1,860	70	3.9	40	10	30
Central NY	980	1,060	80	8.2	30	10	20
Western NY	1,410	1,480	70	5.0	40	10	30

Additionally, New York State Department of Labor projections for the Capital Region, Central New York and Western New York regions are identified as “very favorable” with median wages above \$75,000 annually in each area.

Canvass Results: The Department canvassed degree-granting institutions in the Northeast, Central and Western regions of New York State. Three institutions responded; none objected to the proposed programs.

Department Review: The Department has determined that the proposed programs meet the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize Bryant and Stratton College to award the Bachelor of Science degree at the College’s Albany location and Southtowns and Syracuse North branch campuses, and approve a master plan amendment for Bryant and Stratton, Buffalo, to offer Bachelor of Science programs in Healthcare Services Administration at the Albany, Southtowns and Syracuse North campuses. The amendment will be effective until December 31, 2012, unless the Department registers the programs prior to that date, in which case master plan amendment shall be without term.