




TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Application for Authority to Operate as a For-Profit Degree-Granting Institution in New York State: New York Automotive and Diesel Institute (NYADI) – Provisional Authority to Confer Degrees

DATE: April 27, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents grant provisional authority to confer degrees to the New York Automotive and Diesel Institute (NYADI) and approve a master plan amendment for NYADI to offer programs leading to the Associate in Occupational Studies (A.O.S.) degree and related certificate programs?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute and State regulation.

Proposed Handling

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

Background Information

The New York Automotive and Diesel Institute (NYADI), currently operating as a for-profit non-degree postsecondary school licensed by the Department's Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision (BPSS), has submitted a proposal to operate as a New York State for-profit degree-granting institution. NYADI proposes to initially offer the following five programs:

- Associate in Occupational Studies (A.O.S.) in Automotive Technology
- Associate in Occupational Studies (A.O.S.) in Automotive and Diesel Technology
- Certificate in Automotive Service Technology

- Certificate in Truck and Diesel Technology
- Certificate in Collision Repair Technology

In its application, NYADI states that the U.S. Department of Labor and the New York State Department of Labor indicate the demand for automotive and diesel technology jobs remains high. NYADI has structured its programs to prepare graduates with a high level of job readiness and/or for continued academic pursuits beyond the Associate's level.

Each of the degree and certificate programs proposed by NYADI are designed to provide highly structured training aligned with the skills necessary for successful employment in the fields of automotive technology, collision repair, and diesel technology, as well as general study in English, social sciences, and mathematics. NYADI reports an 80 percent employment rate for graduates of its current non-degree programs and believes the move to Associate's level programs will further enhance those numbers.

NYADI's current faculty includes 11 full-time instructors, each possessing the education and experience to meet its academic mission. NYADI's full-time instructors hold National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications, which is the industry standard in the automotive subjects to be offered. NYADI's programs are accredited by the National Automotive Technician's Education Foundation (NATEF).

NYADI is located at 178-18 Liberty Avenue, Jamaica, New York, 11433. The school occupies a 60,000-square foot facility that has been renovated and built to automotive school specifications. The facilities feature 8 shop areas, 15 classrooms, a parts/tool room, library/resource center, student lounge, and administrative offices. The school is fully equipped with the necessary tools and technologies for automotive instruction and is easily accessible by both public and private transportation.

The library and resource center at NYADI is newly renovated and expanded, containing over 900 volumes, 57 hard copy periodical subscriptions and various databases and electronic resources. The holdings include specialized information and materials relating to automotive and diesel technologies, as well as those relating to general areas of study.

NYADI maintains partnerships with several K-12 career and technical schools which can provide a pipeline for high school graduates who may be interested in pursuing the proposed programs. NYADI has a career services department that maintains an extensive employer contact list for career referrals and assists students with resume preparation, interview techniques and job placement.

The Department completed its review of NYADI's academic program proposals and has determined that the proposed programs meet the standards for program registration. Additionally, NYADI has received positive reviews from its team of external site-reviewers and its programs have also received favorable reviews from separate external experts.

The Department has conducted a canvass of existing degree-granting institutions in New York State to obtain their input on the need for a new institution and its impact on their operations. The Department received no objections concerning NYADI from existing institutions.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents grant the New York Automotive and Diesel Institute (NYADI) provisional authority to confer the A.O.S. degree and approve the master plan amendment for NYADI to offer registered curricula in automotive and diesel technology, and collision repair. The provisional period will be for five years from the date of approval by the Board of Regents.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents grants NYADI provisional authority to confer degrees and approves the master plan amendment, the Department will consent to the Department of State amending NYADI's corporate purposes to include authority to award the A.O.S. degree, and will register the proposed programs.

In accordance with §3.58(b)(1) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, NYADI must apply to the Department for permanent authority to confer degrees at least 12-months prior to the expiration of the provisional period (May 8, 2022). The Board of Regents will then make a determination on whether to grant NYADI permanent authority to confer degrees, extend the provisional authority to confer degrees, or deny continuing degree-conferring authority past the term of provisional authority. If NYADI does not apply for permanent authority to confer degrees, the provisional authority to confer degrees will expire at the end of the term of provisional authority.

The Department will monitor NYADI's progress toward meeting the requirements for permanent authority to confer degrees pursuant to §3.58(b)(2) and (d) of the Rules of the Board of Regents.