



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

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

**SUBJECT:** The State University of New York, Adirondack Community College: Master Plan Amendment to offer an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Agricultural Business

**DATE:** July 6, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *MaryEllen Eisa*

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

Should the Board of Regents approve a master plan amendment for the State University of New York in order for Adirondack Community College to offer its first program in the discipline of Agriculture, an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree program in Agricultural Business?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute and State regulation.

**Proposed Handling**

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

**Procedural History**

On March 23, 2017, the State University of New York Board of Trustees adopted a resolution directing the SUNY Chancellor to seek the authorization of the Board of Regents to amend the State University of New York master plan to authorize Adirondack Community College to offer the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Agricultural Business to be offered at the Queensbury campus. Master plan amendment is required because the proposed program will be the first associate level degree program in the discipline of Agriculture at the College.

## **Background Information**

The State University of New York (SUNY) seeks approval to authorize Adirondack Community College to offer the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S) degree in Agricultural Business.

The purpose of the proposed Associate in Applied Science in Agricultural Business program is to support students interested in starting a small agribusiness or adding management expertise to grow an existing business using an entrepreneurial model. The proposed program is consistent with SUNY's strategic goals as well as Washington County's 2007 Strategic Plan that includes "encouraging the development of agribusinesses and urban revitalization projects that will result in new opportunities for the local food production industry." The proposed program would also contribute to the growth of the "farm to table" movement and complement the College's culinary arts degree.

An academic review of the proposed degree program 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 addition, in April 2017, following its standard protocol, the Department canvassed degree-granting institutions in the Capital District region. Of those canvassed, there were no objections or statements of negative impact should the program be registered.

## **Related Regents Item**

N/A

## **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve an amendment to the State University of New York master plan authorizing Adirondack Community College to offer its first program in the Agriculture discipline, an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Agricultural Business. The amendment will be effective until July 18, 2018, unless the Department registers the program prior to that date, in which case the master plan amendment shall be without term.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Amendments to the State University of New York 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 approval. Upon gubernatorial approval, the Department will register the program.