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Southeast COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COORDINATING COMMISSION
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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PROPOSAL FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Form 92-40

Institution Submitting Proposal:	**Southeast Community College**
Title of Program:	**Integrated Technologies**
CIP Code	**30.0000**
Organizational Unit in which Program will be located:	**Division of Agriculture, Welding and Transportation**
Name of Contact Person in the event additional information is needed:	**Bev Cummins, Vice President of Program Development and Lincoln Campus Director**
Telephone:	**402-437-2554**
Degree, Diploma, or Certificate to be offered	**Associate of Applied Science**
Proposal date to initiate program:	**August 2024**
List the location(s) where this program will be offered:	**All SCC Campuses and online**
If the program has a projected ending date, please so indicate:	**N/A**
Date Approved by Governing Board:	**Complete with Board Approval**

Chief Executive Officer's or other Authorized Officer's signature: Bev Cummins

I. Purpose and Description of the Proposed Program

Southeast Community College (SCC) proposes to establish an Associate of Applied Science in Integrated Technologies. This interdisciplinary degree is intended for students seeking employment as technicians in technology-related industries with a breadth of knowledge across two or more disciplines and integrated around a unifying theme or topic to craft a customized career pathway. The proposed A.A.S. in Integrated Technologies is designed for individuals interested in building upon the basic skills, terminology, and processes used in one or more trades and advancing their knowledge and technical skills to shape their knowledge, skills, and abilities toward their career of choice or to build upon their current skillset and career trajectory. An Associate of Applied Science degree in Integrated Technologies provides students with a more diverse educational background to span a multitude of discipline specific and foundational career-pathway specific skills for meeting their particular career path.

By offering an A.A.S. in Integrated Technologies, SCC would provide students with the skills and knowledge in preparation for workforce career pathways that may yet to be developed. Allowing an integrated approach of combining courses across disciplines provides an agile and adaptable approach to education in today's rapidly changing workforce by emphasizing fundamental skills that transcend specific job roles that could be applied to evolving industry trends, technology, and emerging career fields.

For example, a student may wish to expand upon a certificate in a healthcare profession with computer information technology courses to work in the IT department of a hospital, clinic, or physician's office. Another option might be to combine healthcare courses with electronics courses to work as a medical equipment technician of a hospital servicing specialized healthcare equipment. A student could also combine agriculture courses with land surveying or welding to expand their skills for their company or community. They could blend plumbing and electrical courses to service fire alarm and pipefitting and fire suppression systems. Courses selected from the programs listed in the table below demonstrate the varied nature of this integration of career and technical coursework to craft the ideal credential for the chosen workforce pathway. College advisors will provide guidance for students, encouraging them, when applicable, to complete a certificate or diploma from one of the program areas.

Program delivery includes in-person, synchronous, and asynchronous online courses from two or more career and technical programs. Providing a variety of delivery modes allows students to finish a credential that meets their specific career needs without disruption to their work schedule.

Career & Technical Courses for the Associate of Applied Science in Integrated Technologies could be derived from two or more of the following program areas:

Automotive Technology	Auto Collision Repair	Agriculture
Ford & General Motors Service	Biotechnology	Building Construction
Business	Computer Information Technology	Concrete Construction
Health Sciences and Healthcare Services	Culinary/Hospitality/Baking & Pastry	Design & Drafting Technology
Diesel & Diesel Ag Technology	Early Childhood Education	Electrical & Electromechanical Technology

Electronic Systems Technology	Energy Generation Operations	Geographic Information Systems Technician
Graphic Design Media Arts	Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology	John Deere Construction & John Deere Tech
Land Surveying/GIS/Civil Engineering	Manufacturing Engineering Technology	Nondestructive Testing Technology
Office Professional	Plumbing Technology	Powersports Technology
Precision Machining Technology	Welding Technology	Truck Driver Training

As shown in the program plan below, the Integrated Technologies A.A.S. Degree combines the existing curriculum from one of the above career and technical programs to attain an Integrated Technologies credential.

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	New or Existing Course?
ACFS 1015	Success@SCC	1.0	Existing
Career & Technical Education Courses	Select courses from two or more of the listed CTE programs for a minimum of 44 credit hours	44	Existing
General Education Requirements	Select courses from the general education requirements for a minimum of 15 credit hours	15	Existing
	Total Credit Hours	**60.0**	**Existing**

II. Review Criteria

A. Centrality to Role and Mission

The mission of Southeast Community College is *to empower and transform the diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities. The College provides dynamic and responsive pathways to career and technical, academic transfer, and continuing education programs that contribute to personal, community, and workforce development*.

The creation of an Associate of Applied Science in Integrated Technologies aligns with SCC's mission to provide accessible and responsive pathways for students to attain a credential that best serves the employment pathway they determine. The A.A.S. in Integrated Technologies is intended for learners with varying backgrounds who wish to craft a credential that fits their desired career field. It also provides a responsive program to meet the emerging needs of business and industry as they navigate the ever-changing world in which we live and work.

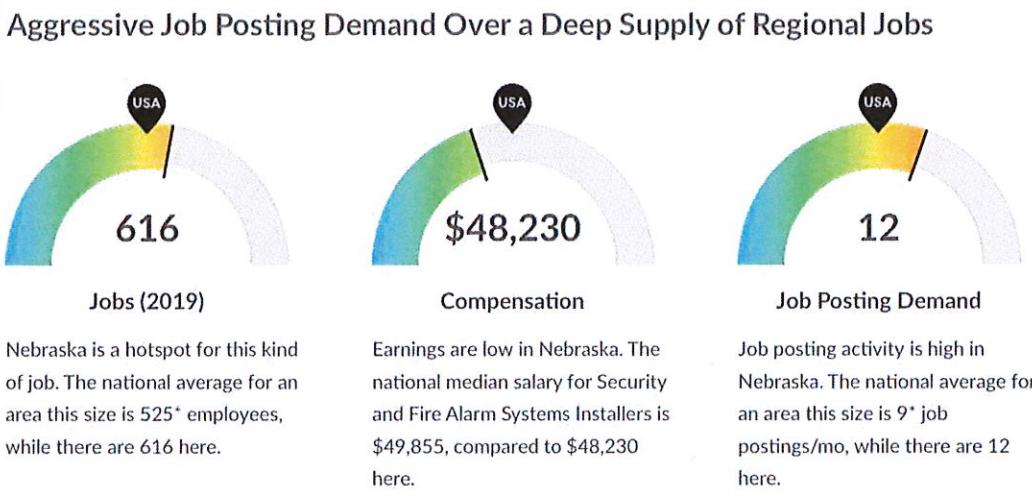
Additionally, this program conforms with what the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education states in the Comprehensive Plan for Postsecondary Education regarding the expectation for the community college's role and mission. "Community colleges provide educational options for students seeking career training or transfer to a four-year institution. The education program may culminate in an applied technology associate degree, diploma, or certificate; or an associate of arts or associate of science degree from an academic transfer program" (p. 7-7).

B. EVIDENCE OF NEED AND DEMAND

Because the Integrated Technologies A.A.S. degree is broad in scope, there is no direct statistical data to be applied. Instead, we must consider the need and demand from some of the examples provided earlier regarding different job/career pathways that could be crafted with this degree.

According to Lightcast Q3 2023 Data Set, there is a higher than national average demand in Nebraska for fire alarm and sprinkler technician as shown in Figure 1. There were 593 unique job postings from January 2019 to December 2022. Our research indicates there are currently no fire alarm and sprinkler technician programs in Nebraska, indicating there is a need for a program to provide a career pathway into this workforce.

Figure 1: Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System Technician Lightcast Data Q3, 2023



A much smaller, more niche field is that of Medical Equipment Technicians who are a specialized field of multi-skilled individuals responsible for calibrating, maintaining, and repairing the medical machinery used in a healthcare facility. Most of these positions require a two-year degree. According to the Lightcast Q3, 2023 data set, the top necessary skills include equipment repair, plumbing, HVAC, preventive maintenance, electronics, and infection control. Between January 2020 and September 2023 there were 156 unique job postings for a median wage of $52,768, yet there are no educational programs in Nebraska that would address training in this field to meet this need. While a standalone program may not be necessary, an AAS in Integrated Technology would provide a pathway for a student to attain the necessary education to qualify for such a position.

From a broader perspective, we also see the need and demand for a degree that is responsive to emerging demands of the future workforce as it integrates technological knowledge and skills from automation, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and virtual reality, with current and emerging industries, from manufacturing, to health, agriculture, and other career and technical fields. This program expands our ability to partner with our communities' business and industry sectors by combining innovative and adaptive curriculum in ways that meet their needs to stay abreast of the rapidly changing workforce of today, requiring an interdisciplinary approach. This program addresses these needs by offering interdisciplinary programming combining knowledge and skills from various fields to prepare students for careers that require a broad skill set and an ability to connect ideas from different domains and disciplines.

ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

1. **Faculty and Staff Resources**
   The career and technical programs listed on page 2 of this proposal have sufficient full-time faculty and a solid pool of adjunct faculty qualified to teach. The A.A.S. in Integrated Technologies curriculum utilizes the existing curriculum and therefore no additional curriculum development is needed. Courses will be offered online and in-person at all campus locations. No additional faculty would be required to create the Integrated Technologies A.A.S. degree. While primarily housed within the Agriculture, Welding, and Transportation Division, the Construction, Manufacturing, Electronics & Technology Division will assist in providing support staffing and administrative oversight.

   The existing faculty and staff will be used for program delivery and there are no facility needs at this time. Courses will be offered throughout the academic year, and we will continue to enroll students every semester. It is difficult to forecast if there will be an impact on enrollment at this time, so to be conservative, we believe an additional 10 students would enroll in year 1 which we forecast would expand to 20 by year 5. The minimum number of students to make the program viable is 8.

2. **Physical Facilities and Instructional Equipment**
   Because the Integrated Technologies A.A.S. degree utilizes existing courses and faculty, there will be no need for additional space or facilities on campus at this time.

3. **Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources**
   No additional equipment is needed for the Integrated Technologies A.A.S. degree. Virtual library and technology resources are already in place to support all distance learners. Sufficient library staff, library resources and information technology resources are in place at all campus locations to support the students and program.

4. **Budget Projections**
   As stated previously, the creation of the Associate of Applied Science in Integrated Technologies will utilize the current full-time faculty and adjunct instructors. The tuition rates are projections based on past trends as no rates have been set by the SCC Board of Governors for the 2024-2025 academic year. Salary increases are projections based on past trends of a 4% total compensation increase. Because there are no new courses to be developed and no new faculty or staff to be hired and no new equipment to be purchased, we do not anticipate any new expenses associated with this proposal. Additionally, to be conservative, we anticipate a minimal increase in enrollment. Please see the Revenue and Expense Projections below.

C. AVOIDANCE OF UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION

There are no 2-year degree programs of this nature offered in Nebraska Community Colleges. There are similar associate degree programs outside the state such as Monroe Community College in New York, Martinsburg College in West Virginia, and Kentucky Community & Technical College System. Therefore, we believe there is no unnecessary duplication.

D. CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The proposed Integrated Technologies A.A.S. degree is consistent with Nebraska's Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education. The program will provide education "...that prepares students for productive and fulfilling lives..." and "...enhances workforce development..." Specifically, the Comprehensive Statewide Plan directs institutions to "provide specialized certification programs in professional, technical, and vocational fields that address regional and state needs" (p. 3-3). Given the current demand for Integrated Technologies majors detailed previously, SCC's proposed Integrated Technologies A.A.S. degree is consistent with this goal.

REVENUE-EXPENSE PROJECTIONS

TABLE 1: PROJECTED EXPENSES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

	(FY2024-25) Year 1		(FY2025-26) Year 2		(FY2026-27) Year 3		(FY2027-28) Year 4		(FY2028-29) Year 5		Total	
Personnel	**FTE**	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	**FTE**	**Cost**
Faculty	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Professional	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Graduate assistants	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Support staff	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Subtotal	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0
Operating												
General Operating		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0
Equipment		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0
New or renovated space		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0
Library/Information Resources		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0
Other		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0
Subtotal		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0		$0
Total Expenses	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0	0	$0

TABLE 2: REVENUE SOURCES FOR PROJECTED EXPENSES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

	FY(2024-2025) Year 1	(FY2025-2026) Year 2	(FY2026-2027) Year 3	(FY2027-2028) Year 4	(FY2028-2029) Year 5	**Total**
Reallocation of Existing Funds						$0
Required New Public Funds						$0
State Funds/Local Tax[1]						$0
Tuition and Fees	$37,500	$46,080	$58,950	$68,850	$83,400	$294,780
Other Funding						$0
Total Revenue	$37,500	$46,080	$58,950	$68,850	$83,400	$294,780

[1] Based on: 10 students, Fall & Spring Semester Year 1 at 30 credit hours annually, at a small percentage growth annually and a projected 3% increase in tuition & fees (based on 2023-2024 in state tuition and fee rate of $121/credit hour).