

**Proposal for Leased Instructional Facility: Diesel, Truck and Heavy
Equipment Technology Program
Initial Five Year Term
Western Nebraska Community College**

I. Descriptive Information

Name of Institution: Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC)

Name of the Program: Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology

The program will be co-located at the proposed leased facilities at 1201 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, Nebraska and WNCC's Main Campus, 1601 East 27 Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska. More than fifty (50) percent of program content will be delivered at the leased facility.

Proposed Leased Facility Location: 1201 Avenue I, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

Facility Description

The proposed lease includes a single building of approximately four thousand four hundred (4,400) square feet comprised of shops, storage, offices and restroom. . Major spaces and approximate square feet are:

- Four truck bays – all 14' door heights
 - Bay 1 – 16' x 33'
 - Bays 2 and 3 – 18 x 40'
 - Bay 4 – 16 x 40'
- Supply and storage area – 600 square feet
- Five offices – ranging from 110 to 260 square feet per office

Bay 1 will be utilized initially as classroom having back-to-back space with bay 2 allowing students to swing from “classroom” to “shop” for demonstrations and hands-on live lab. Bays 2, 3 and 4 will be used for hands-on instruction.

Additional parking space of approximate eight thousand eight hundred (8,800) square feet is included in the lease.

Date of lease approval by governing board with stipulated lease-dates: November 18, 2020

Key Components of Lease

- Term of lease: Five years with annual renewal thereafter
 - Early termination option with agreed upon advance notice per lease
- Rent: Two thousand six hundred forty (\$2,640) per month (\$31,680 per annum)
 - Rent will be donated to the WNCC Foundation per lease
- Utilities will be paid WNCC
- Repairs and Maintenance are responsibility of WNCC
- Liability Insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 general aggregate combined to be provided by WNCC

- Property Damage Insurance to be provided by WNCC
- WNCC to reimburse lessor for lessor’s proportional taxes on leased structure and parking space, currently \$1,369 per year. (Note: this amount is included as part of “Utilities/Maintenance” as shown in Appendix A.)

II. Review Criteria

A. Adequacy of Resources – Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

Existing WNCC facilities i.e. shops in the Applied Technology building are occupied by the Automotive Technology, and Collision Repair and Refinish Technology programs. In addition these spaces, even if available, do not have necessary physical access and dimensions to accommodate diesel truck and heavy equipment along with instructional equipment.

The last available space in the Applied Technology building was converted to classroom space summer of 2019. To remain as space-efficient as possible the three courses utilized in both Automotive Technology and Diesel, Truck and Heavy Equipment, will be taught on the WNCC campus in spaces currently aligned with the Automotive Technology program. In like fashion, courses in Information Technology along with required general education courses required by the program will be taught on the WNCC campus.

After investigation of potential sites, the proposed location most highly aligned with facility type including spaces for classrooms, laboratory, office, and external lots for initial operation of the program. The proposed space is a soon to be vacant diesel repair facility representative of that used for diesel and truck repair. Working collaboratively with a local industry partner an economically efficient, mutually beneficial lease agreement was developed. There would be no immediate need for additional space or facilities. However, with anticipated growth, an additional facility and/or renovated space may be needed.

Within the WNCC Master Facilities Plan, there is opportunity for an addition to the existing Applied Technology Building or for a separate building in a location identified for future buildings. The five-year lease with a local industry partner provides adequate time for the college to monitor the progress of the proposed program, finalize facilities projects underway, and begin planning and budgeting for a potential new facility.

B. Program Centrality to Role and Mission

As a comprehensive community college, Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) is committed to serving the residents of the 12- and one-half counties that make up the Panhandle of Nebraska with higher education and lifelong learning opportunities. WNCC’s mission statement “...assures learning opportunities for all – *enriching lives, invigorating communities, creating futures,*” and pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute [85-962](#), this includes providing applied technology and continuing education to ensure economic opportunities for future employees and the stability and growth of regional businesses and industries.

The proposed Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology program aligns with Nebraska’s Legislative mandate and WNCC’s organizational structure as a career and technical education program resulting in awards that conform to the approved requirements for a certificate, diploma, and associate of applied science degree. There is also potential to use elements of the program for future use in specialized industry training in WNCC’s area of workforce development.

C. Program Evidence of Need and Demand

1. *Need for the program*

There is evidence of an increasing need for medium-heavy equipment and truck technicians and diesel engine specialists in the Nebraska Panhandle.

A review of the *Emsi Q3 2020 Data Set* reports “aggressive job posting demand over a deep supply of regional jobs” for the period of September 2016 to April 2019. In 2017, 195 jobs were posted in the Panhandle for “farm equipment mechanics and service technicians” and “bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists;” the national average for area this size was 72. The median advertised salary for these employment categories in the Panhandle for this same time period was \$41,100. The top hard skill listed in job postings and profiles was experience with diesel engines with mechanics listed as the second most listed desirable hard skill. The report anticipates a 12.7% decrease in the number of employment opportunities for “farm equipment mechanics and service technicians” and “bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists” in the Panhandle by 2030, but the demand in the area continues to exceed a stable national average by 126%.

2. *Local Demand for the Program*

Letters of support from Panhandle region business and industry employers found in Appendix (A) substantiate the need for employees with the necessary skill sets to not only keep local businesses operational but as a basis for expanding their businesses.

This proposed program would provide a pathway for regional students choosing to enter the profession. A September 2020 survey of local high school juniors and seniors already involved in career and technical programs at the high school level indicate significant interest in the program.

Scottsbluff High School	13
Gering High School	16
Morrill High School	3

Both Scottsbluff and Gering high schools have pathways or are offering courses that would feed into the proposed Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology program.

D. Program Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

The proposed Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology program aligns with the [Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education](#). The program will provide education "...that prepares students for productive and fulfilling lives..." and "...enhances workforce development..." In addition, the program will serve to support expansion of the economic and population base by training for in-demand professions identified by Emsi and as H3 (*4th quarter 2017; Annual openings form 2016-2026 Long-term Occupational Projections*) in the Nebraska Panhandle that are applicable to this degree.

The program has been developed in response to both employer need and student demand. Nine major regional businesses and industries have met and agreed to collaborate with the college to support the program. This support appears in a variety of forms including access to common and specialized equipment for training, personnel having specialized knowledge to assist in training of students, and the lease of training facilities at highly reduced rates.

A relatively unique agreement was created to standardize the hourly rates of pay for students on internships and while working concurrent to enrollment in the program. The hourly rate is in the range of regional starting pay for new employees in these businesses and industries. The basis of this agreement came about as the nine major regional businesses and industries wanted to assure the students received exposure to their businesses while eliminating undue influence through wage enhancement.