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:	Utility Lineworker
CIP Code	46.0303
SOC Code	49-9051, 49-9052, 49-2095
Organizational Unit in which Program will be located:	Construction, Manufacturing, Electronics & Technology
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 (AAS)
Proposal date to initiate program:	Fall, 2026
List the location(s) where this program will be offered:	Lincoln and Milford
If the program has a projected ending date, please so indicate:	N/A
Date Approved by Governing Board:	

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

I. Purpose and Description of the Utility Lineworker Program

Southeast Community College (SCC) proposes to establish an Associate of Applied Science in Utility Lineworker. This degree is designed to prepare students for careers in the field of utility line maintenance and repair. This instructional program prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills to install, operate, maintain, and repair electric power distribution systems, both overhead and underground; to install and maintain residential, commercial, and industrial electric power wiring; and to do related work such as street lighting, outdoor lighting, and substation installation. Includes instruction in electric power systems; safety; electrical theory; electrical systems maintenance, installation, and repair; transformer installation and maintenance; electrical equipment and appliance installation and maintenance; and applicable codes and standards.

The proposed AAS in Utility Lineworker is designed for individuals who have a strong interest in working outdoors and in physically demanding environments, are comfortable with heights working on utility poles or elevated structures. These individuals may also have an interest in electrical systems and equipment, as the program would prepare them to install, maintain, and repair electric power distribution systems. Lineworkers utilize problem-solving skills and can work well in a team to complete tasks safely and efficiently. Overall, individuals interested in the Lineworker program are often looking for a hands-on career that offers a combination of technical skills, physical activity, and the opportunity to work in a critical infrastructure field. Employers for Utility Lineworkers need individuals who have completed a career and technical program in utility line maintenance and repair with a strong understanding of electrical systems and equipment, including knowledge of electrical theory, safety procedures, and equipment operation.

In-person instruction on the Lincoln campus, with the possibility of expanding to the Milford campus and synchronous class offerings depending on demand and space available in the future. As shown in the curriculum plan below, the AAS in Utility Lineworker includes electrical theory, electrical systems maintenance and repair, electrical codes and standards, and hands-on training.

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	New or Existing Course?
ACFS 1015	Success@SCC	1.0	Existing
General Education Requirements:			
COMM 1090 COMM 1110/SPCH 1110 COMM 2100 COMM 2810	Choose 1 of the following: Fundamentals of Human Communication **(Recommended)** Public Speaking Communicating in Groups and Teams Business and Professional Communication	3.0	Existing
ENGL 1010 ENGL 1010H ENGL 1054 ENGL 1110	Choose 1 of the following: English Composition I Composition Honors I Writing and Communities Business Communication **(Recommended)**	3.0	Existing
ARTS 1010 ANTH 1120	Choose 3 from the following: Introduction to the Visual Arts General Anthropology	9.0 minimum	Existing

BIOS 1010	General Biology		
BIOS 1140	Human Anatomy		
BIOS 2130	Human Physiology		
BIOS 2250	Human Anatomy & Physiology I		
BIOS 2460	Microbiology		
BSAD 1010	Principles of Management		
BSAD 2540	Microsoft Applications I		
COMM 2100	Communicating in Groups and Teams		
COMM 2110	Intercultural Communication		
CHEM 1050	Chemistry and the Citizen		
CHEM 1090	General Chemistry I		
CRIM 1280	Forensic Science & Laboratory Techniques		
ECON 1200	Personal Finance **(Recommended)**		
ECON 2110	Principles of Macroeconomics		
ECON 2120	Principles of Microeconomics		
ENGR 1020	MATLAB Programming and Problem Solving		
ENTR 1050	Introduction to Entrepreneurship		
FSDT 1350	Basic Nutrition		
GEOG 1020	World Regional Geography		
GEOG 1400	Human Geography		
GEOG 1500	Physical Geography		
GEOL 1010	Physical Geology		
GEOL 1060	Environmental Geology		
GERM 1010	Beginning German I		
GLST 1000	Introduction to Global Studies		
GLST 2980	Global Studies Experience		
GSDT 1350	Basic Nutrition		
HIST 2010	American History I		
HIST 2020	American History II		
HIST 2100	World History to 1500 CE		
HIST 2110	World History since 1500 CE		
HLTH 1030	Structure and Function of the Body		
HUMS 1100	Introduction to Humanities		
MATH 1020	Technical Math		
MATH 1040	Business Math		
MATH 1050	Thinking Mathematically **(Recommended)**		
MATH 1100	Intermediate Algebra		
MATH 1150	College Algebra		
MATH 1200	Trigonometry		
MATH 1300	Pre-Calculus		
MATH 1400	Applied Calculus		
MATH 1600	Calculus I and Analytic Geometry		
MATH 2170/BSAD 2170	Applied Statistics		
MUSC 1010	Introduction to Music		
MUSC 2800	Introduction to World Music		
PHED 1000	Lifetime Wellness		
PHIL 1010	Introduction to Philosophy		
PHIL 1060	Applied Ethics		
PHIL 2610/RELS 2610	Comparative Religions		
PHYS 1017	Technical Physics **(Recommended)**		
PHYS 1030	Astronomy		
PHYS 1100	Physical Science		
PHYS 1150	Descriptive Physics		
PHYS 1410	Elementary General Physics		
PHYS 2110	General Physics I		
POLS 1000	American Government		
POLS 1080	Introduction to Political Science		
POLS 1600	Introduction to Psychology		

PSYC 1250 PSYC 1810 SIGN 1010 SOCI 1010 SOCI 1020 SOCI 2150 SPAN 1010 THEA 1010	International Relations Interpersonal Relations Beginning American Sign Language I Introduction to Sociology Diversity in Society Issues of Unity and Diversity Elementary Spanish I Introduction to Theatre		
	Total General Education Core	**15.0**	
Utility Lineworker Core			
UTIL 1010	Introduction to Electrical Theory	3.0	New
UTIL 1020	Electrical Safety Practices	2.0	New
UTIL 1030	Utility Line Construction and Maintenance	4.0	New
UTIL 1040	Pole Climbing and Rigging Techniques	3.0	New
UTIL 1100	Underground Distribution Systems	3.0	New
UTIL 1110	Transformers and Circuitry	3.0	New
UTIL 1120	Electrical Equipment Installation	3.0	New
UTIL 1140	Troubleshooting Electrical Systems	4.0	New
UTIL 1150	Lineworker Tools and Equipment	2.0	New
UTIL 1240	Health First Aid	1.0	New
UTIL 1250	Overhead Distribution Systems	3.0	New
UTIL 1260	Electrical Codes and Standards	2.0	New
UTIL 1300	Workplace Communication Skills	2.0	New
UTIL 2200	Project Management for Utility Projects	2.0	New
UTIL 2210	Advanced Electrical Troubleshooting	3.0	New
UTIL 2240	Customer Service in Utilities	2.0	New
TRUK 1114	Professional Truck Driver Training	4.0	Existing
TRUK 1124	Professional Truck Driver Training Driving Lab	3.0	Existing
UTIL 1710	Cooperative Experience	4.0	New
	Total Utility Lineworker Core	**49.0**	
	Total Credit Hours	**65.0**	

The program learning outcomes for the AAS in Utility Lineworker are:

- Explain basic electrical concepts, including voltage, current, resistance, and power, and apply these concepts to utility line maintenance and repair.
- Identify and implement safety procedures related to working with electricity, climbing poles, and operating equipment, ensuring a safe work environment for themselves and others.
- Install, maintain, and repair overhead and underground utility lines, including poles, transformers, and other equipment, following industry standards and regulations.
- Select and use tools and equipment commonly used in utility line work, such as hoists, diggers, and voltage testers, safely and effectively.

II. Review Criteria

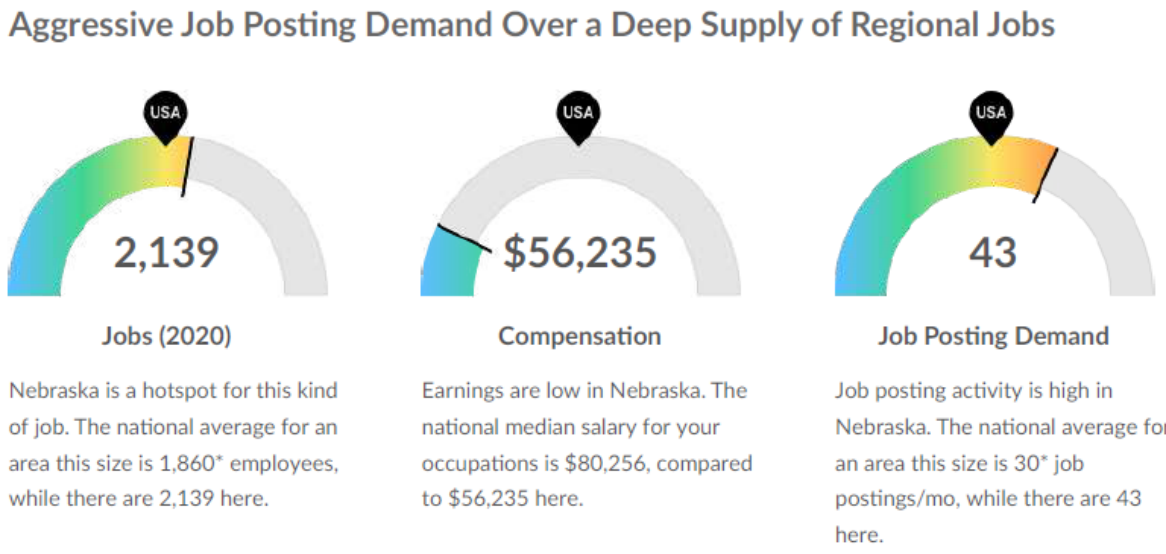
A. CENTRALITY TO ROLE AND MISSION

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 AAS in Utility Lineworker 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. This AAS program will appeal to high school graduates as well as adult learners seeking to reskill or upskill in the industry.

B. EVIDENCE OF NEED AND DEMAND

Workforce Need. According to According to *Lightcast Q2 2024 Data Set*, (www.economicmodeling.com), a company used by SCC to provide academic program evaluation data, in Nebraska, the state is a hotspot with a high job posting demand compared to the national average as show in the chart below.



Job Posting Activity

2,054 Unique Job Postings

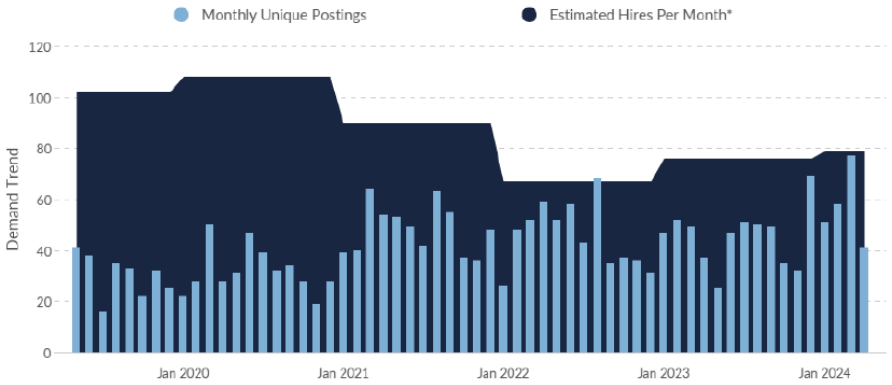
The number of unique postings for this job from Jan 2020 to Dec 2023.

319 Employers Competing

All employers in the region who posted for this job from Jan 2020 to Dec 2023.

32 Day Median Duration

Posting duration is 4 days longer than what's typical in the region.



From January 2020 to December 2023, there were 2,054 unique job postings with 319 employers competing for this skilled workforce. The demand for Utility Lineworkers exists throughout the state with roughly half of the openings in the Omaha metropolitan area, over 20% in the Lincoln area and approximately 25% in the remainder of the state. While there three Utility Lineworker programs in the state of Nebraska (WNCC, NCC, MCC) there were 86 completers in 2023 which are not enough to meet the demand for the state.

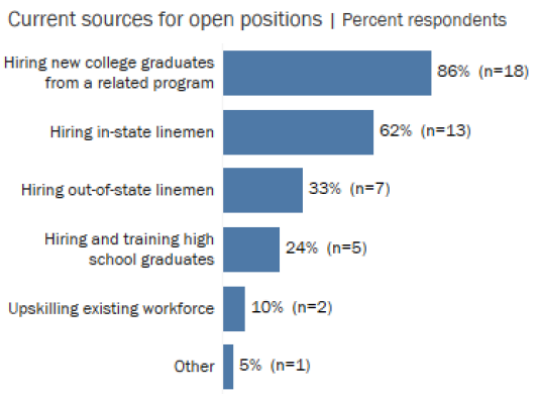
Completions by Institution

Institution	Associate's Degree Completions (2023)	Growth % YOY (2023)	Market Share (2023)	IPEDS Tuition & Fees (2022)	Completions Trend (2019-2023)
Metropolitan Community College Area	44	18.9%	51.2%	$3,285	
Northeast Community College	35	-5.4%	40.7%	$3,840	
Western Nebraska Community College	7	-68.2%	8.1%	$2,976	

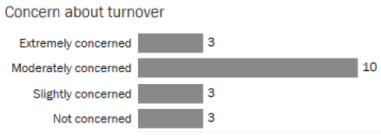
In September 2023, SCC surveyed utility companies in Nebraska with 22 respondents who reported a year ago that they employ a total of 807 utility line workers. Of the 22 respondents:

- 18 had empty positions
- 69 positions were due to resignation or retirement in the past year
- 162 new positions are anticipated in the next 5 years

The respondents noted they prefer to hire new college graduates from a Utility Lineworker program.



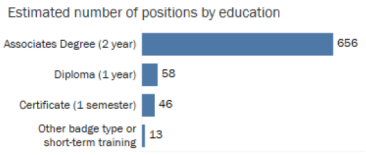
When asked about their level of concern about turnover or impending retirement among the Utility Line Workers they currently employ, two-thirds reported being moderately or extremely concerned (13 of 19) and three (Cornhusker Public Power, Loup Valleys RPPD, and Roosevelt Public Power)



Education

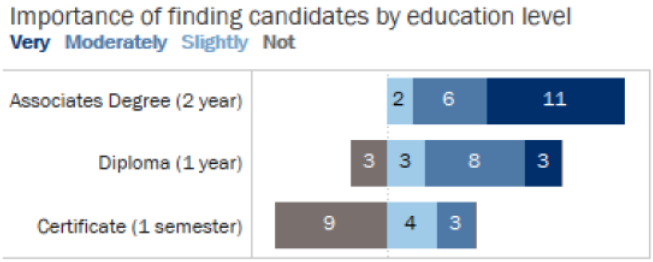
Of the 20 utilities who provided information, the vast majority reported that their Utility Line Workers have completed an Associate's Degree.

The other short-term training mentioned were Commercial Driver's Licenses.



When asked to think about the importance of finding candidates with each educational background for future hiring:

- More than half said an Associate's Degree was *very important*. No one said they were *not important*.
- At least some utilities said the diploma and certificate were *not important.*



Student Demand. According to Gray's Associates in evaluating student interest in a Utility Lineworker in the SCC service area, the program places in the 97th percentile of student demand as demonstrated in the chart below.

Student Demand
Score: 21 Percentile: 97

Category	Pctl	Criterion	Value	Score
Size	46	Google Search Volume (3 Months)*	30	0
	0	International Page Views (12 Months)	0	NS
	98	New Student Enrollment Volume (12 Mo.)	88	8
	99	On-ground Completions at In-Market Institutions	130	4
	0	Online Completions by In-Market Students	0	0
	98	Sum of On-ground and Online Completions	130	4
Growth	94	Google Search YoY Change (Units)*	10	1
	0	New Student Enrollment Vol. YoY Change (Units)	-24	0
	99	Completion Volume YoY Change (Units)	28	2
	99	Google Search YoY Change (%)*	50%	2
	39	New Student Enrollment Vol. YoY Change (%)	-21%	0
	69	Completion Volume YoY Change (%)	28%	0

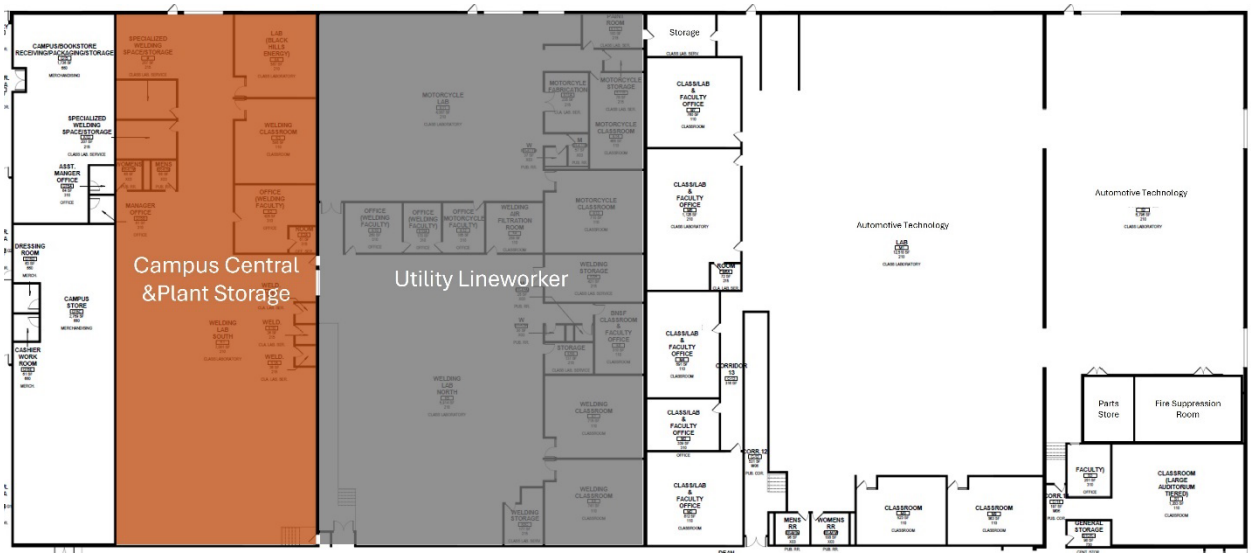
By offering an A.A.S. in Utility Lineworker, SCC would provide a skilled workforce to meet employer needs and respond to student demand.

ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES

1. **Faculty and Staff Resources**
   Currently SCC does not have faculty qualified to teach within the Utility Lineworker program so additional faculty will be needed. We will hire qualified faculty to develop course curriculum, inform the creation of classroom and lab facilities. We have visited other programs in the state to determine these needs. Currently NECC has 4 full-time faculty with an annual intake of 48 students. We anticipate hiring a program chair in 2025-2026 to develop curriculum, expand workforce connections to discuss student cooperative experiences, prepare the classroom and lab spaces, determine equipment needs, and lead program implementation. The Chair will hire a faculty team (full time and adjunct as determined by curriculum development) for the intake of students in 2026-2027.

   We anticipate that the two-year AAS program will be cohort-based, with an annual fall intake. We will begin with 15 students and adding an additional 5 with the second intake, growing the program to meet demand. The minimum number of students to make the program viable is 8. The Construction, Manufacturing, Electronics & Technology Division will provide support staff and administrative oversight.

2. **Physical Facilities and Instructional Equipment**
   The space in the main building of the 8800 'O' Street campus used for the Welding Technology program will be vacated in the summer of 2025. As indicated in the image below, a portion of the space will be converted to use for the Utility Lineworker program.



   The vacated welding lab provides high-bay space for poles and utility vehicles and can be adapted for creation of a dirt floor for digging and pole mounting. There is also space on our campuses to erect utility poles for instruction and high-bay space for utility vehicles (see the images from NECC pole farm and instructional lab). Remodeling costs have been estimated at $500,000 to address fire-life safety, ventilation, concrete, and vehicular access. We have also

established through an employer survey that many employers in our service area are open to providing lab and internship space for hands-on learning experiences.

Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources
SCC will need to purchase instructional equipment. The program chair will finalize the list and work with local employers to determine if they are interested in donating equipment, including boom trucks no longer in service but suffice for instruction. We have estimated $70,000 for initial cost of instructional equipment, facility needs, and resources which will be finalized in the first year by the Program Chair. Input from our industry partners indicate a commitment to donating equipment such as vehicles no longer in service, but still usable from an instructional perspective, recycled poles, etc. They have indicated a willingness as well to bring second-year students on site for additional hands-on experience and training.

Sufficient library staff, library resources, student support staff, and information technology resources are in place at all campus locations to support the students and program.

3. **Budget Projections**
The program will require minor equipment purchases and hiring a dedicated program chair with experience in utility line work is necessary to fully inform the budget of establishing this necessary program. We will seek donations from employers to establish the final budget which is drawn from an internal fund process for new programs. Estimates for budget projections include:

2 Full time Faculty Positions (1 in year 1@223 days):	$ 171,600 (includes benefits)
Welding Lab Remodel:	$ 500,000 (vacated space renovation)
Minor Equipment/Facility Needs:	$ 100,000 (one time startup cost)
Disposable Equipment:	$ 15,000 (yearly)
Program Operations:	$ 65,000 (yearly)

The tuition rates are projections based on past trends as no rates have been set by the SCC Board of Governors for the 2025-2026 academic year. Salary increases are projections based

on past trends of a 3% total compensation increase. Please see the Revenue and Expense Projections.

C. AVOIDANCE OF UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION

Given there are three current programs in the state, Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Joel Michaelis discussed the impact of SCC developing a program as requested by SCC's Workforce Leadership Team and resulting survey. Dr. Widener with NECC agreed there would not be competition for students citing their waitlist of 67 (as of 5/1/24) and accepting 48 students each fall is not enough to address demand in all regions of the state. Like other high-demand career and technical programs across the state, such as nursing, automotive, and welding, the workforce needs require duplication to ensure a skilled workforce for every region of the state.

D. CONSISTENCY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The proposed AAS in Utility Lineworker 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 Utility Lineworkers detailed previously, SCC's proposed AAS in Utility Lineworker is consistent with this goal.

Revenue-Expense Projections

TABLE 1: PROJECTED EXPENSES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

	(FY2025-26) Year 1		(FY2026-27) Year 2		(FY2027-28) Year 3		(FY2028-29) Year 4		(FY2029-2030) Year 5		**Total**	
Personnel	**FTE**	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	**FTE**	**Cost**
Faculty*	1.0	85,800	2.0	171,600	2.0	176,748	2	182,050	2	187,511	2	803,709
Professional												
Graduate assistants												
Support staff												
Subtotal	1.0	85,800	2.0	171,600	2.0	176,748	2	182,050	2	187,511	2	803,709
Operating												
General Operating		30,000		65,000		67,000		69,000		71,000		302,000
Equipment		115,000		15,000		17,000		19,000		21,000		160,000
New or renovated space		500,000		0		0		0		0		500,000
Library/Information Resources		0		0		0		0		0		0
Other		0		0		0		0		0		0
Subtotal		645,000		80,000		84,000		88,000		92,000		959,000
Total Expenses		730,800		251,600		260,748		270,050		279,511		**1,792,709**

* Funds for additional instructors estimates 3% annual increase

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

	(FY2025-2026) Year 1	(FY2026-2027) Year 2	(FY2027-2028) Year 3	(FY2028-2029) Year 4	(FY2029-2030) Year 5	**Total**
Reallocation of Existing Funds **	689,800					$0
Perkins Funds	41,000					$0
State Funds/Local Tax	0					$0
Tuition and Fees *	0	32 CH x 15 x $127=60,960	32 CH x 30 x $131=125,760	32 CH x 30 x $135=125,550	32 CH x 30 x $139=129,270	$435,705
Other Funding	0					
Total Revenue	**730,800**	**$60,960**	**$125,760**	**$129,600**	**$133,440**	**$1,180,560**

* Determined by total 1 year credit hours x # students, x Tuition & Fees

* Tuition/Fees with a 3% increase of prior year

** Year 1 will utilize 41,000 of Perkins Grant fund and $157,000 of internal funds to include facility upgrades.