



May 18, 2017

Dr. John D. Gossett
President
McDowell Technical Community College
54 College Drive
Marion, NC 28752

Dear Dr. Gossett:

Thank you for your letter of November 30, 2016, transmitting a prospectus for a new Associate in Landscape Gardening degree program to be offered, effective August 2017, and additional information provided in the letter dated February 6, 2017, documenting approval for the program. Further information concerning learning resources was provided in an email dated April 27, 2017.

The program, which is consistent with the mission and goals of the College, will provide students with a foundation of technical and professional knowledge needed for managing and maintaining indoor and/or outdoor ornamental and recreational plants and groundcovers and related conceptual designs. Employment opportunities include positions associated with nurseries, garden centers, greenhouses, landscape operations, governmental agencies/parks, golf courses, sports complexes, highway vegetation, turf maintenance companies, and private and public gardens. Graduates will also be prepared to take the North Carolina Pesticide Applicator's Examination and/or the North Carolina Certified Plant Professional Examination. The program will fill employment needs of a substantial Green Industry presence in McDowell County. Appropriate planning and approval by the North Carolina Community College System were documented.

The curriculum for the program, course descriptions for the discipline courses, and student learning outcomes were provided. The College will assess the student learning outcomes through various assessment methods to include rubrics, tests and exams, portfolios, and demonstration of learned skills. The institutional assessment processes were described to include annual planning, program review, assessment of general education courses, and long range planning.

The admission and graduation requirements were described and the policy and procedure for determining amount and level of credit were provided. Oversight for the program will be provided by the Dean of Curriculum. Qualifications of the full-time faculty member scheduled to teach in the program appear appropriate.

A list of discipline-specific learning resources to support the program was provided to include books available in the library, audio-visual resources, periodicals, news and magazines articles, journals, magazines, and newspapers, examples of over 4,000 e-books, databases, and scholarly articles. Inter-library loan services are also available to students. Students are acquainted with learning resources in orientation sessions with new students and receive assistance provided by librarians.



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Student support services include orientation; counseling services; services provided by the Student Enrichment Center to include placement testing, career assessments, and personality inventories, tutorial assistance, and disability services; services provided by the Academic Resource Center which serves as a common computer lab for all students and includes tutoring in basic math and English; and job placement services through the NC Works Career Center.

Physical facilities for the program include a greenhouse and equipment such as garden forks, yard and garden rakes, spades, planting tools, scoops and shovels, garden hoses, cultivators and weeders, push brooms and cleanup, striking tools, pruning/grafting/budding knives, turf and sod tools, and utility knives and multi tools. Financial support for the program appears adequate.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Associate in Landscape Gardening degree program. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/ABC:ly

Enclosure

Cc: Mr. Ladelie Harmon, Jr., Director of Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Cheryl D. Cardell