



Dr. Bryan W. Wilson, President | P 828-652-6021
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June 21, 2016

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan
President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

McDowell Technical Community College plans to begin offering an Associate in Engineering degree in the fall semester of 2016. A Curriculum Program Application was submitted to the North Carolina Community College System Office on June 1, 2016 seeking approval. Program applications for existing program titles that meet the following criteria will be "fast-tracked" and may be processed within 60 days of submission:

- The application is complete, requires no further analysis or documentation, and is received by the System Office by the first working day of the month;
- There are no negative impact assessments; and
- The college does not go outside of its service area for planning purposes

McDowell Tech's application met those requirements and we anticipate approval at the July State Board of Community Colleges meeting. This degree program will be offered on McDowell Tech's main campus, located at 54 College Drive, Marion, NC 28752. The degree plan includes required general education and prerequisite courses that are acceptable to all state funded Bachelor of Engineering programs. Students who follow the degree progression plan will meet the entrance requirements of all of the North Carolina public Bachelor of Science Engineering programs.

Upon reviewing the Substantive Change policy, we believe these offerings are not a significant departure or change from our current offerings. The Associate in Engineering is closely related to the Associate in Science degree. Only two Physics (PHY) courses and a few Engineering (EGR) courses will be added. McDowell Tech already has a qualified instructor on staff to teach the engineering courses and we have collaborated with a neighboring community college to share a physics instructor. The physics courses would not be offered until the spring of 2017, but the engineering courses could be offered fall of 2016. This letter serves as notification to the Commission of our new offerings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ladelle Harmon'.

Ladelle Harmon
SACS Liaison

C: File

Dr. Bryan Wilson
Dr. John Gossett
Dr. Jim Benton