

Appendix E

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology at NC A&T State University

Introduction

NC A&T State University notified UNC-GA of its intent to plan a BS in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology degree (CIP 40.0401) in August 2007 and requests authorization to establish the degree in January 2008.

Program Description

The BS in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology is designed to prepare a graduate for employment as a meteorologist working on weather forecasting, climate modeling, and research to understand the chemical and physical processes of the atmosphere. Graduates may satisfy the requirements for civilian employment with the Federal meteorological agencies, be commissioned as a meteorological officer in the Air Force or Navy, or be appointed to an internship in the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration. The proposed program will be interdisciplinary involving the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Journalism and Mass Communication, and Natural Resources and Environmental Design. Graduates will be well suited to enter the PhD program in Energy and Environmental Studies at NCA&T. More than 80 credit hours in the new program come from courses already available in existing programs.

Program Need

In December 2006, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced funding (anticipated to be \$12.5 million over five years) for the Interdisciplinary Scientific Environmental Technology (ISET) Cooperative Research and Education Center at NCA&T State University. The goal of the Center is to increase the number of program graduates from underrepresented communities in NOAA science and technology areas, and the program will only be the second program at an HBCU in the nation. Outreach to K-12 grades will be another aspect of the Center. Several studies indicate a strong demand for graduates of meteorological degree programs to address the growing and diverse needs of a wide range of users of meteorological data relating to global warming, acid rain, air pollution, coastal flooding, hurricanes, and other issues. By the fourth year of the program it is anticipated that 40 full-time and 10 part-time students will be enrolled.

Resources

Faculty hires in the departments noted above will be coordinated to meet the needs of the program. A NOAA senior scientist has been hired into a position provided by the Provost starting in January 2008. ISET funds (\$2 million in 2006-07) will be used to purchase needed library materials and equipment. Space has been reallocated as needed or is currently under construction.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the NCA&T State University request to establish an BS in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology degree (CIP 40.0401) in January 2008.