

APPENDIX J

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Healthcare Administration at Winston-Salem State University

Introduction

Winston-Salem State University requests authorization to establish a Master of Healthcare Administration degree in August 2008.

Program Description

The School of Business and Economics proposes an MHA degree program in accordance with guidelines of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Management Education (CAHME), the accrediting agency for graduate programs in health administration. The 45-credit hour program will address health administration, health services management, health planning and evaluation, health policy, and other related activities. The MHA degree will prepare management professionals for positions in hospitals, outpatient clinics, public health, non-profit associations, long-term care facilities, pharmaceutical companies, medical equipment manufacturers, health insurance, and temporary health services. The program will enable collaboration between the graduate business and health science programs at WSSU through shared faculties, courses, and resources.

Program Need

The program will help address the severe under-representation of minority individuals in senior healthcare management. As of January 2007, no HBCU in the nation was listed as offering programs accredited by the CAHME. The medical industry is listed as the largest growth industry in the Winston-Salem area with upper level health care jobs expected to increase by over 16% from 2006 to 2012. Employment in medical and allied industries accounts for more than 12% of the workforce in Forsyth County. A need assessment survey of regional healthcare and allied health care organizations indicated a strong demand for a part-time MHA degree at WSSU. An undergraduate degree in health care services is being planned by WSSU, and this program will serve as a feeder program for the proposed MHA degree.

Resources

Two new faculty positions will be required in year one and one new faculty position in year two, which will be funded from enrollment increase funds. A plan to expand the library collection has been developed. Facility and information technology resources are adequate to support the program.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Master of Healthcare Administration degree (CIP 51.0701) at Winston-Salem State University effective August 2008.