

APPENDIX J

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Arts In Liberal Studies at North Carolina A&T State University

Introduction

NCA&TSU notified the Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies (CIP 24.0101) on April 23, 2003. The University requests authorization to establish the degree program in October 2003.

Program Description

This program, rather than requiring a major in a specific discipline, provides a liberal education combining core and support courses with areas of concentration studies and related electives. The approach to liberal studies education will rest upon a solid foundation of applied and social sciences, languages, technology, the arts, and literature. The Liberal Studies program will begin with two concentrations, African-American Studies and International Studies. Other possible concentrations to be added in the future include: Natural Science, Computer and Information Science, Social Sciences, Environmental Studies, Professional Communications, and Creative Expression.

Program Need

The Noel-Levitz consulting firm, in its July 31, 2000, Retention Opportunities Analysis Report, advised that NCA&TSU should introduce a Liberal Studies Program in the College of Arts & Sciences. Such a program would attract more non-traditional students who despite having earned a large number of credits have heretofore been unable to apply them to a degree program and graduate in a timely fashion. In addition, this program provides an option for the undecided/undeclared major. The program will educate students in areas that are important to potential employers: critical and creative thinking, analysis and research, decision making and problem solving, and effective written and oral communication. It is anticipated that by the fourth year, 150 full-time and 50 part-time students will be enrolled in the program.

Resources

New funding will come from enrollment increase funds and internal reallocations. The Office of the President has provided a three-year grant from Focus Growth funds for developing this degree program. Courses that will be used in the program already exist on the campus and are taught by current faculty.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree at North Carolina A&T State University effective October 2003.