

APPENDIX H

Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Technology at North Carolina State University

Introduction

North Carolina State University notified the UNC Office of the President of its intent to plan a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Technology (CIP# 15.0507) on December 18, 2001. The university requests authorization to establish the program in November 2002.

Program Description

The curriculum of this proposed program, which includes a practicum and an integrating capstone course, is designed to produce environmental management professionals with a broad interdisciplinary background coupled with a specific focus in environmental monitoring and assessment and technological environmental management. Students will be prepared to pass the examination of the National Registry of Environmental Professionals, and after completing the required laboratory in emergency response management, students will receive Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response certification. This interdisciplinary degree includes courses from the College of Natural Resources, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and the College of Humanities and Social Studies.

Program Need

Nationally, there is a \$178 billion environmental technology market, yet there are few baccalaureate degree programs related to this area. Career opportunities for environmental engineers include: designing waste treatment facilities and equipment, developing regulations and management strategies, developing models predicting environmental impacts of human activity, and conducting research. Environmental technologists monitor, measure, assess, and communicate environmental parameters and change. NCSU conducted a series of focus group meetings with potential regional employers to determine the type of training necessary to produce such employees. Surveys indicate that demand for graduates of a well-structured environmental technology curriculum is high. It is anticipated that by the fourth year of the program, approximately 100 full-time and 12 part-time students would be enrolled.

Resources

Development and start-up funds have been approved for this program through the NCSU planning process. Enrollment funding generated by students in the new curriculum should be sufficient to cover on-going program expenses and costs associated with new faculty, staff, and graduate assistants. No other new state funding is requested.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Technology at North Carolina State University effective November 2002.