



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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February 25, 2013

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Technical College System Board: Section 13.10 Request for Approval of Interstate Higher Educational Agreements Between Blackhawk Technical College and Southwest Technical College and Highland Community College in Illinois -- Agenda Item V

BACKGROUND

Current law allows the governing boards of any publicly-supported, postsecondary institution, with the approval of the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) and the Joint Committee on Finance, to enter into reciprocity agreements with appropriate state educational institutions in other states. The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) currently has agreements with institutions in four states: Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota. These agreements are intended to provide students with the opportunity to attend institutions which are more conveniently located or which offer programs not available in the students' state of residency. With the exception of the Minnesota agreement which is statewide, all other agreements are between individual technical colleges.

Currently, three Wisconsin technical college districts, Indianhead, Nicolet, and Northeast, have reciprocity agreements with two community colleges in Michigan (Bay College and Gogebic Community College). Gateway Technical College has reciprocity agreements with three community colleges in Illinois (College of Lake County, McHenry County College, and Rock Valley College); Blackhawk Technical College and Chippewa Valley Technical College also have reciprocity agreements with Rock Valley College in Illinois; and Southwest Technical College has a reciprocity agreement with Northeast Iowa Community College. In 2011-12, 1,139 Michigan resident students (233.57 full-time equivalents) attended Northeast Technical College under its reciprocity agreements with Bay College and Gogebic Community College in Michigan. An additional four Michigan resident students (1.98 FTE) who were enrolled in a program shared by

Northeast and Fox Valley Technical Colleges attended Fox Valley Technical College under the agreement. Fewer students utilized the reciprocity agreements with community colleges in Illinois and Iowa. In 2011-12, 37 students (16.39 FTE) attended a Wisconsin technical college covered by a reciprocity agreement, with 26 enrolled at Blackhawk and 11 at Gateway. No Iowa resident students attended Southwest Technical College under that institution's reciprocity agreement in 2011-12. The number of Wisconsin students attending community and technical colleges in other states under reciprocity agreements is unavailable.

REQUEST

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board requests that the proposed reciprocity agreements between Blackhawk Technical College and Southwest Technical College and Highland Community College in Illinois be approved. Each agreement has previously been approved by the Blackhawk and Southwest District Boards and the Board of Trustees of Highland Community College and were approved by the WTCS Board on January 29, 2013, and the Higher Educational Aids Board on February 15, 2013.

Under the proposed agreement between Blackhawk Technical College and Highland Community College, Blackhawk district residents would be charged in-district tuition and fees for courses within their approved program taken at Highland Community College and Highland residents would be charged in-district tuition and fees for courses within their approved program taken at Blackhawk Technical College. Students will be charged out-of-state or nonresident tuition and fees for courses taken outside of their approved programs. Although not clearly stated in the agreement, the programs that the proposed agreement would cover are shown in Attachment 1. The agreement would require that priority for admission be given to resident students and that no resident students may be displaced due to the agreement. Continuing students enrolled under the agreement will be given the same priority as resident students when registering for subsequent semesters except in certain limited-access programs that may be identified in the future.

Under the proposed agreement between Southwest Technical College and Highland Community College, residents of either district would be charged in-district tuition and fees while enrolled in certain programs offered by the college in the other district. The programs that would be covered by the proposed agreement are shown in Attachment 2. Wisconsin resident students applying for admission at Highland Community College would be given the same priority as district residents. The agreement would require each institution to report annually to the other institution certain information related to the students who enrolled under the agreement and the programs in which those students enrolled.

Both agreements may be terminated at the request of either party provided that notice is given in writing eleven months prior to the affected semester. Upon termination of the agreement, participating students would be allowed a maximum of five years from the termination date to complete the program. If approved, both agreements would take effect on March 1, 2013. No payments would be made between the two institutions or the two states pursuant to the agreements.

ANALYSIS

In 2012-13, in-district tuition and fees at Highland Community College are \$82 per credit compared to \$146 per credit for out-of-state students. Tuition at Blackhawk and Southwest Technical Colleges is \$116.90 per credit for Wisconsin residents and \$175.35 for nonresidents. Additional activity fees of \$5 to \$6 per credit are charged to all students. At this time, WTCS has not provided any estimates regarding the number of Highland resident students who are expected to enroll at Blackhawk and Southwest Technical Colleges under the proposed agreements nor the number of Highland resident students who are currently enrolled at those colleges. If a significant number of Highland resident students are currently enrolled at Blackhawk and Southwest Technical Colleges and are paying nonresident tuition and fees, the agreement could result in a decrease in revenues for those technical colleges. However, the agreements could be financially beneficial to the technical colleges if substantially more Highland resident students were to enroll in those technical colleges if the agreement were approved, especially if those students enrolled in courses or programs that are currently under-enrolled. The agreements may also benefit the technical colleges by allowing them to avoid creating new and costly programs and courses.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the proposed interstate educational agreements between Blackhawk Technical College and Southwest Technical College and Highland Community College in Illinois.
2. Deny the request.

ATTACHMENT 1

Addendum Agreement

Highland Community College Programs

Associate of Arts
Association of Science
Associate of Engineering Science
Associate of General Studies
Associate of Arts in Teaching
Auto Body Repair
Equine Science
Graphic Design
Nail Technician
Paramedic
QuickBooks Professional (available online)
Truck Driving Training
Web Design
Wind Turbine Technician

Blackhawk Technical College Programs

Culinary Arts
Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Vascular
Diesel/Heavy Equipment Technician
Electric Power Distribution
Fire Protection Technician
Horticulture/Landscape Technician
Human Resource Management
Laboratory Technician Assistant (Monroe Campus)
Medical Laboratory Technician (Monroe Campus)
Project Management

ATTACHMENT 2

Southwest Tech Programs Available to HCC Residents

Bricklaying/Masonry
Culinary Specialist
Culinary Management
Dairy Herd Management
Direct Herd Management
Direct Entry Midwife
Food Production Assistant
Electric Power Distribution
Engineering Technologist
Esthetician
Golf Course Management
Physical Therapist Assistant
Respiratory Care
Pharmacy Technician
Dental Assistant
Human Services Associate
Medical Laboratory Technician
Ag Power and Equipment Technician
Building Trades -- Carpentry
Electric Power Distribution
Electromechanical Technology
Fire Safety

HCC Programs Available to Southwest Tech Residents

Associate of Engineering Science
Associate of General Studies
Associate of Arts in Teaching

Paramedic
QuickBooks Professional (offered online)
Professional tax Preparer
Equine Science
Wind Turbine Technician