

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 15, 2003

SUBJECT: Okaloosa-Walton Community College Baccalaureate Degrees

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve recommendations of the Commissioner of Education related to Okaloosa-Walton Community College's (O-WCC) proposals to grant baccalaureate degrees in the areas of nursing and project and acquisitions management. The Commissioner's recommendations will be forwarded to State Board members upon formal receipt of CEPRI's comments prior to the April 15th meeting.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes, titled "Site-determined baccalaureate degree access".

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

State law authorizes the State Board of Education to: (1) approve community colleges entering into a formal partnership with a state university to deliver specified baccalaureate degree programs; and, (2) authorize a community college to grant specified baccalaureate degrees. Three proposal requirements are specified in law:

1. Demand for the baccalaureate degree program is identified by the workforce development board, local businesses and industry, local chambers of commerce, and potential students.
2. Unmet need for graduates of the proposed degree program is substantiated.
3. The community college has the facilities and academic resources to deliver the program.

Statute also requires community colleges to submit their proposals to the Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement (CEPRI) "for review and comment". CEPRI will be considering the proposals at a meeting on April 9th. CEPRI comments will be forwarded to State Board members along with the Commissioner's recommendations once officially received.

Okaloosa-Walton Community College has submitted two proposals to offer the Bachelor of Applied Science in Project and Acquisitions Management and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. O-WCC presented an overview of these programs at the March 18th State Board meeting. Several high-ranking members of the hospital and military communities were in the audience at that meeting to show their support for O-WCC's pursuit of both degree programs.

At the request of Chairman Handy and Commissioner Horne, O-WCC and the University of West Florida (UWF) have reached agreement on a joint nursing program that involves some upper-division instruction by O-WCC, but keeps UWF as the institution granting the degree. The jointly-signed "Letter of Intent" is attached. Also attached is a comparison of information related to the Bachelor of Applied Science degree program (submitted by O-WCC).

Supporting Documentation Included: O-WCC/UWF Letter of Intent; Comparison information for the Bachelor of Applied Science program

Facilitators/Presenters: Commissioner Jim Horne