**INFORMATION ITEM**

**KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION** January 19, 2024

**TITLE:** New Academic Programs Approved at KCTCS

**DESCRIPTION**: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received a report of the four AAS program proposals from KCTCS institutions approved by CPE staff between June and December 2023 in accordance with the program approval process. No future action is necessary from the Council.

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## COMMITTEE'S REVIEW

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their January 16, 2024, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the January 19 board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature.

## PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS FOR KCTCS INSTITUTIONS

Associate Degree Programs of a Vocational-Technical-Occupational Nature (i.e. AAS) undergo the following process for approval:

- KCTCS posts a proposal to the program approval system. Institutions and Council staff have 30 days to respond.
- If no issues are identified, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item to the Council.
- If issues are identified, the institution addresses those through the program approval system, and the review period is extended. Once the issues are resolved, the program is approved by Council staff and reported as an information item at the next Council meeting.

**APPROVED PROGRAMS AT KCTCS**

Council staff have reviewed and approved the following programs. No further action is needed.

Henderson Community College

- AAS, General/Occupational Studies (CIP 30.9999) - The program provides students with the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to become industry-certified technical workforce professionals. Students learn to perform multiple techniques used in technical industries and develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Upon completion of the program, graduates are eligible for certification exams in their chosen technical fields.

Somerset Community College

- AAS, Health Science Technology (CIP 51.000) – The program is designed to prepare students for entry-level career opportunities in healthcare and health-related services. The program is designed for those students who seek entry-level jobs as well as for currently employed individuals wishing to broaden their skills for career enhancement. Completion of the degree affords the graduate the opportunity to serve in various roles within healthcare institutions due to the required completion of three or more distinct health science certificates. This allows for students to design their educational experience to meet individual career goals by providing varied learning opportunities through the certificates available to them.

West Kentucky Community and Technical College

- AAS, Aviation Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0608) - Students in this program will develop expertise in the inspection, repair, service and overhaul of aircraft and engines. Graduates will be able to interpret specifications from service and technical manuals, use testing procedures and equipment, diagnose problems, and make necessary repairs. The program will provide graduates with a working knowledge in the areas of airframe and power plant. To work in the industry, the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) must certify students completing the program.
- AAS, Computer Engineering Technology (CIP 15.1201) - The program will prepare computer engineering technicians to pursue careers in the design and maintenance of digital systems, network development and testing, and basic database programming and maintenance. Students in this program study networking and computer systems fundamentals, digital circuits design and analysis, programming in multiple computer languages, and database design.