



February 15, 2019

Dr. Ray Perren
President
Lanier Technical College
2990 Landrum Education Drive
Oakwood, GA 30566

Dear Dr. Perren:

Thank you for your letter of November 20, 2018, in response to our letter dated September 24, 2018, requesting additional information for the Diesel Equipment Technology Diploma, effective January 2019. The following technical certificates of credit (T.C.C.) are embedded within the diploma:

- Diesel Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician T.C.C.
- Diesel Truck Maintenance Technician T.C.C.
- Transport Refrigeration Specialist T.C.C.

We requested clarification on the credentials of Kennon Below, who holds the Master of Arts in Education-Elementary Education and the Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and teaches Fundamentals of English. Since most of the titles of courses taken in the degrees listed on the faculty roster related to reading and language arts at the elementary school level, we requested discussion of course content applicable to the teaching assignment. Your letter noted the course is within the Technical College System of Georgia's Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) which is designed to deliver developmental coursework along with basic skills coursework. The design of ALP courses is to prepare students to enter the workforce with a functional level of literacy and numeracy; the course is not considered a general education course but, rather, a basic skills course not designed to substitute for or transfer to college-level coursework. The institution believes Mr. Below's academic training, his experience in developing a rapport with non-college level students, and his past experience teaching developmental courses qualify him to teach the course.

While qualifications now appear appropriate, keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review team who will assess the program as part of the institution's next SACSCOC accreditation review.

As noted in the initial prospectus review, the programs align with the institution's mission to provide "career-technical education programs" and will target traditional high school-age students as well as adults currently working in the field who wish to obtain credentials for career advancement. Program approval by internal entities and by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia was noted.

Program goals and student learning outcomes were delineated for each program and were expressed in observable/measurable behaviors. Other processes/instruments to assess effectiveness include annual unit plans, Georgia's Performance Accountability Systems, and numerous indirect assessments. The Diesel Equipment Technology program will be fully integrated in the established assessment protocol and will complete both annual plans and outcomes assessment reports.



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Admission to all programs is under an open, non-competitive admission process. Program oversight is the responsibility of the Diesel Equipment Technology Program Coordinator who reports to the Dean of Applied Technology.

Discipline-specific resources appear adequate, and many resources are available electronically with links on the library page for online resources and directions for using library resources off campus. A mandatory orientation for all new students has been implemented, with an optional online orientation available. All students are assigned an advisor upon program admission. The Career Center holds two career fairs each year to bring potential employers to campus, and the College invites representatives of employers in the service area to discuss what companies look for in hiring.

A building on the new main campus site will house the Applied Technology and Professional Services programs with a state-of-the-art lab space and adjoining computer lab for classroom instruction. A list of equipment that has been ordered to support the programs was provided. Financial support appears adequate.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Diesel Equipment Technology Diploma and embedded technical certificates of credit in Diesel Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician, Diesel Truck Maintenance Technician, and Transport Refrigeration Specialist programs. It was the decision of the Board to approve the programs and include them in the scope of accreditation.

At its meeting in June 2018, the Board of Trustees approved modification of the "*Substantive Change Policy for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions Policy Statement*," for any type of substantive change requiring approval. If an approved substantive change has not been implemented within two years of action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, the institution will need to submit a new prospectus for the change or application for a level change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/MAC:efk

cc: Dr. Joanne P. Tolleson, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness and Operations
Dr. Denise Y. Young