



May 14, 2018

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

Dear Dr. Perren:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 2017, transmitting a prospectus for the offering of 50% or more of the credits for the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Interdisciplinary Studies degree program at a new off-campus instructional site, effective fall 2018. The site is:

Alliance Academy for Innovation
1100 Lanier Parkway
Cumming, GA 30040

The existing A.A.S. program is consistent with the institution's mission, and will be offered to high school students as part of a dual credit agreement with the Forsyth County School System. The program will allow the students to simultaneously progress toward high school graduation, earn college credits, and develop valuable workforce skills. Instruction will be delivered through traditional classroom and lab based activities, with an anticipated enrollment of 48-60 students per year. The proposal to offer the program at the Alliance Academy for Innovation was approved by the Lanier Technical College President on November 13, 2017. **In the future, please provide a comprehensive list of degrees and certificates offered by Lanier Technical College, along with a list of approved off-campus instructional sites.**

Admissions and graduation requirements were provided, with an explanation of waivers applicable to the dual enrollment high school students. The curriculum, course descriptions, and student learning outcomes were also provided along with a definition of credit hours. A variety of assessment methods will be used to determine knowledge comprehension, skills mastery, and program effectiveness. The program will also be included in the annual institutional effectiveness process, which was described in detail. Administrative oversight will be provided by the Lanier Technical College High School Coordinator and the applicable Program Chairs.

The Faculty Roster describes the qualifications of the seven part-time and three full-time faculty members providing instruction for the A.A.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies program. Each faculty member has a related graduate degree and appears to be qualified to teach the assigned courses. As a rationale for adequate faculty numbers, the College points out that 59.7% of instruction in 2017 was delivered by full-time faculty. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty



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qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review teams who will assess the faculty as part of the institution's next SACSCOC accreditation review.

Library and learning resources appear to be adequate for the program. The Alliance Academy for Innovation students will have access to discipline-specific resources at their high school libraries, Forsyth County public libraries, and all of the Lanier Technical College libraries. Dual enrollment students have full check-out privileges for all print collections, plus 24/7 online access to digital resources through the Lanier Technical College library's website. Professional librarians are available to provide instructional services within the College libraries and at high school campuses. Reference services are provided through online tutorials, Library Guides, and through the "Ask a Librarian" service via chat, SMS, email, or phone.

Student support services appear to be adequate. Along with standard services such as financial aid, student records, and admissions, the College provides additional support to students through disability services, tutoring, and placement testing. A Freshman Experience Workshop is delivered for all dual enrollment students at the beginning of the term which introduces them to the vocabulary of college life, software products, and library resources. A Student Success Workshop is delivered at the end of the term and covers career skills, financial aid beyond high school, college applications, and financial literacy. A full-time Student Navigator is available to counsel students at risk of non-completion and also notify appropriate high school staff.

Instruction for the A.A.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies will be delivered at the Alliance Academy for Innovation which is a modern educational facility designed to house up to 1,200 students. Two classrooms will be dedicated for exclusive use of Lanier Technical College's dual enrollment program. Each of the dual enrollment classrooms is equipped with standard furnishings, plus ten Chromebook computers for student use and a large-screen smart TV. The second-floor computer lab is equipped with 32 modern desktop computers. Students will also have access to 30 computers in the Academy's Media Center. The physical resources appear appropriate to support the program's educational goals.

Financial support for the program appears to be adequate. A three-year budget was provided that includes estimated revenues and expenses. Revenues will be generated from tuition and fees and are expected to surpass the expenditures, which are mostly instructional related. Lanier Technical College currently holds approximately \$1.2 million in carry-over funds. As a contingency plan, the College will draw upon these funds to support the program if tuition and fees do not materialize at expected levels.



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The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval to offer 50% or more of a program at the Alliance Academy for Innovation off-campus instructional site. It was the decision of the Board to approve the site and include it in the scope of the current accreditation. This site will be evaluated again as part of the institution's fifth-year or decennial review.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus.

Sincerely,

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

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/SKO:iy

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Joanne Tolleson, V.P. of Institutional Effectiveness and Operations at Forsyth Campus
Dr. Denise Y. Young