



September 9, 2013

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

Dear Dr. Perren:

Thank you for the letter and prospectus, sent under Laura Elder's, Interim President, signature, dated April 22, 2013, requesting approval for Lanier Technical College to implement the Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant degree program (80 semester credits), effective January 2014.

Appropriate and adequate documentation is provided regarding processes used to determine need for, planning, and approval of, the program which was reviewed with final approval awarded by the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) State Board in April of 2013. This program complements the institution's existing programs which offer the A.A.S. in Paramedicine and the Diploma in Practical Nursing, in addition to other health-related program offerings.

The curriculum design reflects, and adheres to, the TCSG model and state standards; the schedule of course offerings is appropriate, and program and learning outcomes are identified which include a plan and process – institutional and TCSG metrics - for the evaluation and assessment of program effectiveness and outcomes. The program will seek accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) at the earliest appropriate time.

Resources described are as follows:

- A Program Director who holds the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree has been employed and will provide oversight for the program; additional qualified faculty (minimum of a master's degree) will be employed following program approval to assist with recruitment of students and implementation of the program.
  - Faculty credentials for instruction in the non-physical therapist assistant courses in the program document appropriately qualified faculty.
- Physical and monetary resources appear adequate and appropriate to implement this program:
  - Budget allocations for personnel, equipment and materials are adequate to support program delivery;
  - A 60,000 square foot new building (2010) on the institution's Forsyth campus was built specifically to house health-related programs – including the proposed Physical Therapist Assistant program;
  - The institution consulted with a practicing Physical Therapist regarding structural design and layout for the Physical Therapist Assistant program space to ensure adequate and industry-standard facility space;
  - A structural diagram of allocated space evidences appropriate facilities to support program instruction.



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- Library and learning resources (Electronic and print) resources are appropriate and adequate:
  - Funds have been spent, and allocated, for the purchase of additional print materials to support this program;
  - The institution is a member of GALILEO (Georgia Library Learning Online) which provides students access to full-text journals and multiple databases; students also have access to resources via EBSCO and Credo Reference.
    - Funds have been allocated for additional purchases as necessary and appropriate.
- Student support services:
  - This program will be delivered on-site at the Forsyth Campus; students will have access to on-site and electronic support services – as do all institutionally enrolled students.

**The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of Lanier Technical College's request for approval of the Physical Therapist Assistant Associate of Applied Science degree program. It was the decision of the Board to approve this program and include it in the scope of the institution's current accreditation. This program will be reviewed in conjunction with the institution's scheduled 2016 reaffirmation review.**

The Commission wishes you success in this initiative.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$300 to help defray the cost of prospectus review.

Best regards,

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

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President

BSW/TG:efk

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Joanne Tolleson, Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness and Operations at Forsyth Campus  
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley