



Media & Community Relations

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GCCC to offer its first workforce-oriented Baccalaureate Program:

Bachelor of Applied Science in Technology Management

Panama City, FL – Gulf Coast Community College’s program offerings will be expanding again based on the needs of the community. The College recently received approval from the State Board of Education for its Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) degree in Technology Management. This workforce-oriented program is designed for students who have already completed an A.S. or A.A.S. degree in a technology-related field, and who have the desire to increase their technical skills in a specific area of specialty. Once students have completed the B.A.S. degree, they will be prepared for leadership responsibilities in technologically sophisticated global environments.

The development of the B.A.S. in Technology Management program was prompted by the desire to provide a venue for graduates of technology-related associate’s degree programs to advance in their fields. A thorough program demand analysis, executed by the Washington DC-based firm Hanover Research Council, indicated that in the area encompassing 100 miles surrounding Bay County, there are 201 estimated annual job openings, with a four-year annual average of degrees being produced of only 97. During the planning process Gulf Coast Community College contacted all regional institutions regarding the program’s potential competition with their offerings, and these discussions confirmed that duplication does not exist. Also, a study by Florida’s Great Northwest identified a number of high-wage, high-demand occupations that were expected to grow significantly over the next eight years. Of the eight high-wage, high-demand computer and mathematical positions listed, five are related to Technology Management.

“The new B.A.S. degree really fills a gap for individuals who are seeking a bachelor’s degree in technology,” said Dr. Jim Kerley, GCCC President. “It is an applied degree that is not offered from nearby institutions and there are multiple openings in this area



according to our needs assessment. Our goal at Gulf Coast is to provide access and give opportunities for advancement for those who have an associate degree but want to work into management.”

The B.A.S. program is expected to commence in January 2011, and a cooperative arrangement for offering an upper-division management course through FSU PC has also been agreed upon, which continues a longstanding cooperative relationship between the two institutions.

Dr. George Bishop, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Learning Support, acknowledged the countless hours that faculty and staff spent developing this needed program. “While offering bachelor’s degree-level study is a new venture for us, it is still based on the solid foundation of excellence in teaching for which Gulf Coast Community College is known,” he said.

For more information about the B.A.S. in Technology Management program, please contact Wendy Payne, Business & Technology Division Chair, at (850) 872-3876.

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