

**June 2005**

## **Status Report on Previously Approved Degree Programs**

### **HECB Information Item**

This is an informational report to the members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board at its June 23 meeting. No board action is necessary at this time.

### **Background**

The current Higher Education Coordinating Board's *Guidelines for Program Planning, Approval and Review* authorize the executive director to approve proposals by public four-year institutions to extend existing degree programs to branch campuses or new off-campus locations, or to offer them via distance learning technologies or through a combination of delivery methods.

The process requires an institution to notify the HECB at least 45 days before the proposed start date of the program. This "Notification of Intent" (NOI) includes the following information:

- Degree title
- Delivery mechanism
- Location
- Proposed program start date
- Statement of need for the program
- Source(s) of funding
- Enrollment targets

HECB staff post the information on the HECB Web site within five business days after receiving the proposal, and notify the provosts of the other public four-year institutions; the Independent Colleges of Washington; the Council of Presidents; and the four-year universities' Committee on Academic Program Planning. Interested parties have 30 days to review and comment, and if there are no objections, the HECB executive director will approve the proposal.

## **Status Report**

From July 2004 through May 2005, the HECB executive director approved three proposals from Eastern Washington University in accordance with the notification of intent process. In November 2004, expansion of an existing Master of Social Work program was approved for Everett. In March 2005, a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program was approved for Spokane. In May 2005, a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration was approved for Bellevue. The three programs are described below.

### **Master of Social Work – Approved November 2004**

EWU received approval to add a new component to its Master of Social Work program. Eastern had received approval in 2001 for a program that begins each fall quarter. The new program will begin each winter quarter. The most recent fall class was fully enrolled with 60 students. By adding a second class of students beginning in the winter the program will accommodate an additional 20 students.

The MSW program is the largest master's degree program at the university and is designed to meet the needs of students in rural areas and small towns where access to professional social work education is limited. The program is delivered through on-site instruction, and the majority of courses are taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty.

The program curriculum and assessment approach is consistent with national standards, and the program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

Student demand for the program has remained strong, and each year's program has been fully enrolled. The university reports that the MSW program has graduated more American Indian students than any other MSW program in the nation.

When the proposal was distributed to the public baccalaureate institutions for comment, no institution raised concerns.

### **Bachelor of Arts in Social Work – Approved March 2005**

EWU received approval to extend the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work to students at the Spokane campus beginning summer 2006.

The program is designed to meet the needs of students in communities where access to professional social work education is limited. The part-time program is delivered through on-site instruction at the Spokane campus, and the majority of courses are taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty.

The program curriculum and assessment is consistent with national standards, and the program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The baccalaureate program prepares students for entry positions as human services practitioners. Employment in human services is expected to grow faster than average, and EWU's assessment of need through contacts with local agencies shows a significant need for baccalaureate graduates, including a need to train employees who currently work in the region.

The program is offered to students in groups of 20 (14.2 FTE). Students study part-time and would normally complete the 90 credit upper-division curriculum in four years. The program caters to students who continue to work as they complete the program.

When the proposal was distributed to the public baccalaureate institutions for comment, no institution raised concerns.

### **Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/General Management – Approved May 2005**

EWU received approval to extend its Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration/General Management to students at Bellevue Community College beginning fall 2005.

The program is designed to meet the needs of placebound students in Bellevue and the surrounding area. The majority of the program will be delivered via classroom instruction, although some courses may be delivered via distance education.

The program curriculum and assessment is consistent with national standards, and the program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Regional surveys of student interest consistently find demand for degree completion programs in business, a pattern that also exists at BCC.

The program will accommodate 60 students (48 FTE) in the first year and will grow to 80 students (75 FTE) at full enrollment. The program is designed to align with the Associate of Arts degree program at the community college.

When the proposal was distributed to the public baccalaureate institutions for comment, no institution raised concerns.