

ITEM 143-2854-R0509

Authorization to offer a Certificate of Applied Science and an Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology – Carpentry; Montana State University - Great Falls College of Technology

THAT:

The Montana Board of Regents approves Montana State University- Great Falls College of Technology (MSUGF) to offer a Certificate of Applied Science and an Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology - Carpentry. The College received temporary approval through the Level I process in May, 2008. We request formal approval through the Level II at this time.

EXPLANATION:

To expedite the implementation process of our Certificate of Applied Science and Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology - Carpentry, MSUGF submitted and was granted temporary approval by the Montana Board of Regents through a Level I process in May, 2008. The College is now requesting formal approval by the Board to offer a Certificate of Applied Science and an Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology - Carpentry.

The College has strong programs in healthcare, business and technology, and is working to build their trades offerings. Without trades programs, the institution cannot respond to industry demands. In fact, until last year, Great Falls was the only community with a Montana University System presence and no two-year construction trades programming.

The 2007 Legislature appropriated \$3 million for the addition of a construction trades building on the College campus. Additional startup funds (\$234,455) from the state One-Time-Only program were used to accelerate implementation of skilled trades programming, including construction trades, and help support these fledgling programs until they are established. The CAS and AAS in Carpentry have helped to form a solid foundation for this important workforce segment. Just as it was in the temporary Level I proposal of last year, this program is being proposed for implementation as a 1+1 program whereby students may complete the first year and receive the CAS credential, and/or continue into the second year for the AAS degree.