

June 14, 2007

ITEM 136-301-R0707

**Approval of Proposal to Offer an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Electrical Technology; Flathead Valley Community College**

**THAT:**

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Flathead Valley Community College to award an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Electrical Technology.

**EXPLANATION:**

In 2001, Flathead Valley Community College began the development of educational programs focused on the Construction Trades Career Cluster in response to requests and economic development needs of local business and industry. Pathways within this cluster include Building Trades, Electrical Technology, Heating and Air Conditioning, Plumbing, and Heavy Equipment Operator. Accomplishments to date include: Certificates of Applied Science in each pathway; an Associate of Applied Science in Building Trades; construction of a new \$3 million facility to house the programs completed in January 2007; and the procurement of training devices, materials and equipment necessary to expand curriculum offerings from the Certificate to the Associate of Applied Science level in Electrical Technology.

The proposed Electrical Technology Associate of Applied degree reflects Flathead Valley Community College's commitment to the Board of Regents' efforts to ensure career development programs are compliant with national and industrial standards and are fully aligned and articulated with similar curriculum offerings within Montana. To achieve that end, the proposed Electrical Technology curriculum is aligned with the Montana State University-Northern Electrical Technology program. This aligned curriculum philosophy will promote a single Electrical Technology program within Montana and will ensure consistency in curriculum, instructional methodology, student performance standards and evaluation criteria. Future proposed changes to the curriculum will be conducted with both local and state advisory boards, Montana State University-Northern program administration and the Department of Labor and Industry Apprenticeship Training Program.