

Proposal to Board to Eliminate Automotive Associate Degree Programs May 13, 2020

I am presenting a proposal regarding our two associate degree programs in Automotive. Please know first that the proposal is about more than these specific programs. This is about how the College strategically invests its resources to produce the greatest return. Programs that drain our resources due to low enrollment and high cost take away from more viable programs with healthy enrollments.

UCC began working in earnest two years ago to examine academic programs for their viability to assure we have the right programs to meet our community's needs and that those programs are sustainable. Examination of data and communication with industry and business partners have been essential elements of the process.

One of the academic areas under examination has been automotive. Enrollment has declined significantly for several years while the cost to operate the program has continued to increase. The faculty created a plan for correcting the decline and worked diligently for two years to turn things around. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that low enrollment can be overcome. This difficulty is the same one faced by several other rural colleges, where automotive programs have been curtailed or eliminated.

After much consideration, our proposal is to re-configure automotive offerings at UCC. We propose to discontinue the associate's degree in T-TEN program and the associate's degree in general automotive. Based on first year enrollment data as well as the growing auto program at Roseburg High School, there appears to be sufficient need and interest for a one-year certificate. We also envision the possibility of specialized workshops and trainings.

Here are the data supporting our recommendation:

For the past four years, 2016-2020, the automotive programs rarely met the minimum required number of 10 students per class.

- Of 61 sections taught in general auto, only 11 had an enrollment of 10 or more (excludes CWE)
- Of 46 sections taught in T-TEN, only 2 had an enrollment of 10 or more (excludes CWE)
- No second year course ever achieved an enrollment of 10
- Dual enrollment (high school students) in auto was 2, 3, and 2 for 2016-2019.

Recruitment numbers do not match actual enrollments

- In fall 2019, general auto admitted 20 students but classes only had 5 or 6 students
- In fall 2019, T-TEN admitted 17 students but classes only had 5 or 6 students

Over the past four years, enrollment has declined while costs have increased:

AUTO	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
FTE	47.22	41.12	39.9	25.57
Budget	\$511,348	\$540,531	\$566,697	\$587,030
Cost per FTE	\$10,829	\$13,145	\$14,202	\$23,230

If approved, the College must arrange for current automotive students in the T-TEN and general automotive associate's degree program to complete their studies. Multiple possibilities are under consideration and will be communicated to students as soon as possible. In addition, the one-year automotive certificate program needs to be developed and approved by the HECC before we can enroll students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Debra H. Thatcher
President