



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Memo

To: Board of Trustees

From: Dr. Devin Stephenson, President

Date: June 18, 2024

Re: New Certificate Program Review: Artificial Intelligence, Nursing Assistant, and Phlebotomy

Following initially listing these programs with Catalog updates in April 2024, the College is requesting approval to establish three new certificate programs:

- Artificial Intelligence Awareness (College Credit Certificate) – 9 credits
- Nursing Assistant (Career Certificate Program) – 165 contact hours
- Phlebotomy (Career Certificate Program) – 165 contact hours

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Awareness certificate will be an embedded certificate in the College's existing Associate in Science in Cybersecurity degree program, giving students an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills for practical AI applications. During the College's accreditation reaffirmation and strategic planning, the need to expand the Cybersecurity program and establish AI training was identified as a career education priority. This program will lead to CAPE industry certifications in:

- Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Fundamentals (MICRO 124)
- Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Engineer Associate (MICRO 121)
- Certified Internet Web (CIW) Artificial Intelligence Associate (PROSO34)
- ICT Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (PROSO813)
- Information Technology Specialist (ITS) – Artificial Intelligence (CERTI016)

The College also recognizes the importance of providing multiple pathways into the Health Sciences. The **Nursing Assistant** certificate program will prepare students to take the exam to become Certified Nursing Assistants—a pathway into the nursing profession. The **Phlebotomy** program will prepare students to take the exam to become Certified Phlebotomy Technicians, a pathway into the College's existing Medical Laboratory Technology program. Both programs serve an existing labor market shortage in our region.

New program offerings which differ substantively from the College's existing programs require approval from the College's accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges (SACSCOC). None of these programs require SACSCOC approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Trustees approves the Artificial Intelligence Awareness, Nursing Assistant, and Phlebotomy programs, as presented.