



MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2023

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King, Jr., Chancellor

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment for Mohawk Valley Community College – Rome

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes Mohawk Valley Community College - Rome to offer the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Dental Hygiene in the disciplinary area of the Health Professions, subject to approval by the New York State Board of Regents and the Governor.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the State University of New York Master Plan be, and hereby is, amended to authorize Mohawk Valley Community College - Rome to offer instruction leading to the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Dental Hygiene in the disciplinary area of the Health Professions; and be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, authorized to transmit this amendment to the New York State Board of Regents and the Governor for incorporation in the State University of New York Master Plan.

Background

Approval of this resolution will authorize Mohawk Valley Community College – Rome (“MVCC-Rome”) to offer instruction leading to the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Dental Hygiene in the disciplinary area of the Health Professions, subject to approval by the Board of Regents and the Governor. New York State Education Law §237 and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (Title 8 NYCRR §52.1 and Part 54) require that a master plan amendment be submitted and approved in order for an institution of higher education to offer a new program in a disciplinary area where it does not currently have a registered program. This will be the

first degree program to be offered by Mohawk Valley Community College - Rome in the disciplinary area of Health Professions.

The proposed A.A.S. in Dental Hygiene at MVCC-Rome expands on existing programs in the health professions offered at the MVCC main campus in Utica, including in the disciplines of nursing, radiologic technology, respiratory care, and surgical technology. The curriculum of the proposed program is a modification of the previously existing A.A.S. in Dental Hygiene offered as a multi-institution program with SUNY Canton serving as the degree-granting entity and MVCC-Rome as non-granting. To this multi-institution program, MVCC-Rome had contributed student support services, classroom space, and lab sciences courses. This multi-institution program was discontinued in 2019 because clinical facilities became unavailable. Rather than reinstate the previously existing multi-institution program, MVCC-Rome is proposing its own program because the campus was approached by local chapters of the American Dentistry Association to collaborate on workforce development to meet the need for dental hygienists in the area.

The purpose of the proposed program is to produce graduates who are prepared to sit for the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam (NBDHE) and the Commission on Dental Competency Assessment (CDCA) and to become licensed dental hygienists in New York State. Students will also complete all New York State requirements to apply for certification to administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide. The program will be accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Projected enrollment in the first year of the program is 25 fulltime and 5 parttime students, increasing in year five to 50 fulltime and 10 parttime.

There is modest statewide market demand for dental hygienists and more robust demand in the Mohawk Valley region. According to Lightcast, statewide projected growth for dental hygienists is 8.7% through 2032. In the Mohawk Valley region, projected growth is 18.4% through 2032. This regional need was evident through a local assessment of the need for the program, which was informed by key partners in the region who identified that lack of a dental hygiene program in the area as detrimental. With the discontinuance of the multi-institution program between SUNY Canton and MVCC-Rome, the nearest dental hygiene programs are at Broome, Monroe, and Hudson Valley Community Colleges, each of which is a significant distance for students in the region surrounding MVCC. These same partners informed the content of the curriculum and the Fifth District Dental Society of the State of New York (encompassing Herkimer, Jefferson, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties), Aspen Dental, and Chairside Central New York Placement Agency each provided letters of support for the program. According to SUNY's gradwages dashboard, the median wages for SUNY community college graduates two years after completing an associate's degree in dental hygiene is \$48,498.

The program requires significant start-up resources, especially to build the required clinical facilities with 24 dental units and to hire qualified faculty. To offset the cost of the clinical facilities, Oneida County, the City of Rome, and the Fifth District Dental Society and New York State Dental Foundation have announced their support in the amount of \$1,575,000. Existing faculty in the biological sciences and mathematics will teach courses in the new program, but the college will need to hire three fulltime and several adjunct faculty in dental hygiene.

One external evaluator noted a strength of the program will be “a state-of-the-art facility.” The other external evaluator recognized the value of MVCC-Rome’s experience with the previously existing multi-institution program and the involvement of that program’s Director in the development of the proposed program. Additionally, both evaluators commented on the “community engagement” and “support from the local dental community” as particular strengths.

Offering the A.A.S. in Dental Hygiene aligns well with Mohawk Valley Community College - Rome’s mission. The program has been carefully reviewed and found to be sound, both academically and fiscally.

