SUNY The State University of New York

Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

September 16, 2025

TO: **Members of the Board of Trustees**

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

SUBJECT: **Master Plan Amendment for the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred**

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred to offer the Bachelor of Science in the disciplinary area of biological sciences, 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 the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred to offer instruction leading to the Bachelor of Science in the disciplinary area of biological sciences; and be it further
>
> **Resolved** that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, authorized to transmit this amendment to the Board of Regents and the Governor for incorporation in the State University of New York Master Plan.

Background

Approval of this resolution will authorize the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred ("Alfred State College") to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in the disciplinary area of biological sciences, subject to

the approval of the New York State 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 program in a disciplinary area in which it has not previously been approved to offer such a program. This will be the first baccalaureate degree program to be offered by Alfred State College in the disciplinary area of biological sciences.

The proposed B.S. in Applied Biology focuses on the application of general biological sciences and provides students with a broad base of knowledge along with extensive hands-on experience, culminating in a capstone course. Graduates will be well-prepared to enter the workforce in a range of occupations in the laboratory (e.g., research assistant), field (e.g., conservation biologist), or industry (e.g., pharmaceutical quality assurance technician). Additionally, the degree will provide a strong foundation for those seeking advanced study through graduate or professional degree programs. The Applied Biology B.S. complements the existing Biological Science Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) at Alfred State College and provides associate degree completers opportunity for direct transfer into the baccalaureate degree. Additionally, the Applied Biology B.S. adds to the existing B.S. degrees in related disciplines such as Forensic Science Technology and Health Sciences.

Projected enrollment in the first year of the program is six full-time students and one part-time student, increasing to 63 full-time and five part-time students by year five.

There is modest market demand for graduates with a baccalaureate degree in biology. According to labor market analytics tool Lightcast, for baccalaureate degree completers in biology through 2035, there is projected growth in target occupations of approximately 10% statewide and 6% in the Western New York region.

The Applied Biology B.S. will leverage existing facilities, including laboratories outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and instrumentation, which will be augmented by new equipment and supplies to support this program. An instructional support assistant will be hired in the first year of the program to assist with instruction in laboratory courses and to support program growth. Moreover, to teach newly developed courses, three new faculty will be hired, one in each of the program’s first three years.

The external evaluators were impressed by the “comprehensive curriculum” and “hands-on experience” the program will provide. The collaborative structure of the program was also singled out as a strength: “The Applied Biology program shares faculty expertise and laboratory facilities with other programs in the Physical and Life Sciences department, maximizing

resource utilization and ensuring students have access to high-quality instruction and equipment." The evaluators further remarked, "Collaboration with other programs expands opportunities for internships, research, and capstone projects, allowing Applied Biology students to engage in interdisciplinary experiences that enhance their career readiness." On multiple occasions, the evaluators noted the "uniqueness of the program," and commented on the commitment of the faculty, staff, and administrators to support this program.

Offering the Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology aligns with the mission of the State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred. The program has been carefully reviewed and found to be sound, both academically and fiscally.