



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 Farmingdale**

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the State University of New York College of Technology at Farmingdale to offer the Bachelor of Science in the disciplinary area of agriculture, 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 Farmingdale to offer instruction leading to the Bachelor of Science in the disciplinary area of agriculture; 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 Farmingdale ("Farmingdale State College") to offer the

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in the disciplinary area of agriculture, 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 Farmingdale State College in the disciplinary area of agriculture.

The proposed B.S. in Urban Horticulture represents a revision of the existing Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) in Horticulture Technology Management that was registered in 2005. Farmingdale State College has proposed to revise the existing program curriculum to strengthen its scientific foundation and incorporate additional technical electives that will enhance students' preparation for careers in technical sectors, such as sustainable horticulture, urban landscape design and maintenance, plant health care assessment, small-scale food production, and commercial and residential turfgrass management. The change in award allows for the inclusion of additional liberal arts and sciences courses, differentiates this program from similar programs at other SUNY campuses, and renders this program more recognizable by prospective students and employers. The change in title better describes the curriculum and program learning outcomes and reflects the geographic location in which the program is offered. Industry leaders in the New York City metropolitan area overwhelmingly expressed support for the proposed revisions. The existing program is registered in the disciplinary area of business, but upon revision the best-fit disciplinary area is agriculture.

The proposed Urban Horticulture B.S. adds to Farmingdale State College's existing Associate in Applied Science degrees in General Horticulture and Landscape Development and Certificates in Ornamental Horticulture and Cannabis Production and Management, each of which is registered in the disciplinary area of agriculture.

Projected enrollment in the first year of the revised program is 54 full-time and 16 part-time students, increasing to 75 full-time and 20 part-time students by year five. Most baccalaureate horticulture programs are in rural areas and, aside from Farmingdale State College's existing Horticulture Technology Management B.Tech., no other institutions in the New York City metropolitan area offer baccalaureate programs in horticulture or related fields. This presents a market niche for Farmingdale State College and presents a strong opportunity for targeted marketing and recruitment.

The Urban Horticulture B.S. will leverage existing faculty and facilities that support the existing Horticulture Technology Management B.Tech., as well as the associate and certificate programs. Both the building that houses the horticulture programs and the greenhouses that offer hands-on learning are currently undergoing planned renovations to provide enhanced instructional spaces.

Farmingdale State College plans to hire one additional full-time faculty member to support this revised program.

There is modest market demand for graduates with a baccalaureate degree in horticulture. According to the labor market analytics tool Lightcast, employment in target occupations for baccalaureate degree completers in this field is projected to grow by just over 7% throughout the New York City and Long Island regions and approximately 5% statewide through 2035.

The external evaluators noted as a program strength the faculty, who are well-trained, dedicated to their students, and highly regarded in the industry. Additionally noted as a strength are the program facilities, including the Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens that was described as “a unique treasure,” as well as partnerships with industry, which provide hands-on experience as part of the program. The location of the program, on Long Island and proximate to New York City, was also noted as a strength in relation to the intended curricular focus.

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