



Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#2000-31



RESOLUTION

concerning

PROGRAM MODIFICATION

for a

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

at

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

April 6, 2000

WHEREAS, Western Connecticut State University offers the degree Bachelor of Science in Health Education and an option in Community Health within the Health Education degree; and

WHEREAS, The offering of a new Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health represents a modification to the existing Bachelor of Science in Health Education Degree, and

WHEREAS, In addition to a separate professional objective than the Health Education degree, the Community Health option has grown to have a sufficient amount of required courses to require separate approval under the Board of Governors approval regulations, and

WHEREAS, The new degree in Community Health will prepare students to perform the required competencies to become Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) which has become a recognized credential for community health educators and the demand for CHES-qualified educators is increasing nationally, and

WHEREAS, WCSU expects to apply for accreditation for the program by the Society for Public Health Education/American Association for Health Education and separate program status will be useful for this accreditation, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for Connecticut State University System approves Western Connecticut State University's application to the Board of Governors for Higher Education for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health.

A Certified True Copy:

William J. Cipes, Jr.
Chancellor

ITEM

Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health at Western Connecticut State University

BACKGROUND

Western Connecticut State University proposes a new undergraduate degree in Community Health that currently is offered as an option within the licensed and accredited BS in Health Education program. Approval for this degree is sought under the program modification guidelines of the Board of Governors for the Department of Higher Education.

In addition to having a professional objective different from the Health Education option, the Community Health option has grown to have a sufficient amount of required courses to require separate approval under the Board of Governors approval regulations. The new degree in Community Health will prepare students to perform the required competencies to become Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES). Upon approval of the new degree, WCSU expects to apply for accreditation of the Community Health program by the Society for Public Health Education/American Association for Health Education. Separate degree program status will be useful for this accreditation.

ANALYSIS

The Community Health degree is an outgrowth and a modification of the existing program in Health Education. Community Health currently is one option that students can pursue within the Health Education degree. There is significant demand for certified health education specialists, which will be addressed by separate status for the degree. The degree can be provided with existing resources since it relies largely on extant courses, facilities and library holdings. As it is an outgrowth from an existing option within the Health Education degree, it is submitted appropriately as a modification to an existing program.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve WCSU's application for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health.