

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**NO.:** BHE 06-03

**BOARD DATE:** September 15, 2005

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**MOVED: APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH THE NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
PROGRAM RELOCATION STUDY**

The Board of Higher Education hereby gives North Shore Community College approval to proceed with the Essex Agricultural and Technical School Program Relocation Study. This approval is given with the understanding that North Shore Community College is responsible for all costs related to the study and that it will not proceed with design and/or construction until the Board of Higher Education gives its approval to proceed.

Authority: MGL Chapter 15A Section 9

Contact: Kurt Steinberg, Associate Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Recent History

In fall 1999, North Shore Community College (NSCC) absorbed Essex Agricultural and Technical School's (Essex Aggie) postsecondary programs to accommodate the dissolution of the county form of government in the Northeast sector of Massachusetts. The merger and Essex Aggie's specialized programming posed unique challenges to NSCC. Several of the well-enrolled Essex Aggie programs (Animal Care and Grooming, Veterinary Technology, Culinary Arts, Floriculture and Horticulture, and Cosmetology) required specialized space that was not immediately available at any of North Shore's three campus locations (Danvers, Beverly or Lynn). To ensure that currently enrolled students in these programs were provided every opportunity to pursue graduation, accommodations for these students and programs were made on a program by program basis. As of fall 2004, five years after the 1999 merger, some of these specialized programs have been relocated to other campus locations, some have been suspended and will not be continued, while the remaining programs are housed in inadequate space at the Essex Aggie High School campus.

### Looking Forward

The College is seeking adequate space to house some of the remaining programs. By Fiscal Year 2005, after years of prioritizing space needs and developing key planning tactics to accommodate the continuation of most Essex Aggie programs, the College is at a crossroads and must relocate the most viable of these unique programs to other space. The College cannot and should not continue to use limited fiscal resources to renovate dilapidated space that is not owned by NSCC and that will require considerable funds to maintain, meet ADA compliance, and replace a failing HVAC system. The need for new space on a NSCC campus is further highlighted by the absence of these programs in the current design for the new Essex Aggie complex.

### Program Identification and Needs

After the relocation of some of the Aggie programming to the Danvers Campus over the last five years, 14 associate degree and certificate programs remain housed at the Essex Aggie High School Campus. Two associate degree programs (Professional Grooming and Urban & Community Forestry) suspended admissions as of fall 2002 and will be phased out as the remaining enrollees graduate. Six other programs (Animal Care Degree/Certificate, Culinary Arts Degree & Certificate and the two clock-hour Certificate programs - Cosmetology and Aesthetics/Skin Care) continue to be well enrolled but are in need of costly specialized space. Plans to retain these programs through creative venues will be explored and a cost benefit analysis and feasibility study completed. The remaining six programs are proposed to be relocated in the new Danvers facility in the short term to accommodate the demands of the service area population. Those programs are as follows:

AAS Degree Programs	Certificate Programs
Veterinary Technology	Practical Nursing
Horticulture	Surgical Tech
Floriculture	Floriculture

The Allied Health Practical Nursing and Surgical Tech programs are both in high demand and are clearly meeting the Southern Essex Workforce regional labor market needs. Veterinary

Technology Associate Degree, one of only two Vet Tech programs in the Massachusetts Community college system (Holyoke and NSCC), remains well enrolled. This rigorous AAS program consistently graduates an average of eight students who become gainfully employed in veterinary clinics and hospitals, as well as being qualified for positions in research facilities. Floriculture and Horticulture are highly specialized and unique programming and are not offered in the region we serve.

### **Space Utilization**

North Shore Community College currently offers more than 65 classes at the Essex Aggie location. The two major buildings utilized are Maude Hall (housing Cosmetology, Veterinary Tech, Practical Nursing and Surgical Tech courses) and Berry Hall, accommodating Culinary arts, Floriculture, Horticulture as well as a number of general purpose classrooms. Slightly more than 60 percent of these classes are held in Berry Hall in “general purpose” classroom space. Based on a space utilization analysis conducted for the Danvers Main and Allied Health buildings for the spring 2005 semester, it is estimated that more than half of these classes held in general purpose space could be accommodated at the Danvers location at the same time and day. It is also estimated that through a variety of creative venues (alternative scheduling, online courses, hybrid courses, etc.) an additional 25 percent of these classes could be offered without interruption. The remaining 20-25 percent of these classes and the remaining “specialized” classes (for Horticulture, Floriculture, Practical Nursing, Surgical Tech and Vet Tech) continue to be the most difficult to relocate, given the specialized space needs of these courses (lab, running water, large storage spaces, etc).

In addition, the transfer of approximately 17 faculty members to new office space poses additional challenges to an already strained Allied Health and Danvers Main buildings. Currently, fewer than five faculty offices are vacant in both buildings combined. Accommodations for the remaining 12-14 faculty would require building and outfitting approximately 1,000 square feet somewhere in the Danvers buildings and purchasing additional office equipment similar to what already exists in those spaces.