

April 20, 2006

06-063

AUTHORITY TO APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE DEALER SERVICE  
TECHNOLOGY DEGREE

PREPARED BY:

Amy Alday-Murray, Curriculum Manager

APPROVED BY:

Dr. Preston Pulliams, District President  
Dr. Christine Chairsell, Vice President, Academic and  
Student Services

REPORT:

The Associate of Applied Science in Dealer Service Technology will prepare students to become qualified Caterpillar service technicians. Students will learn technical skills that will enable them to work on Caterpillar equipment such as agricultural, construction, forestry, and earthmoving equipment. The program combines technical and academic education with real world experience through a four-term paid internship sponsored by Caterpillar dealerships. The internships will give students the opportunity to experience possible future careers. Areas of instruction include engine fundamentals, machine hydraulics, fuel systems, electrical systems, transmissions and torque converters, undercarriage systems and final drives in addition to general education.

The program was developed in partnership with the Caterpillar Corporation. Portland Community College was selected by the corporation to be the only community college offering this program within a six state region. There is currently no other program of its kind in the Northwest. The proposed program is the result of a nationwide effort by a major industry to increase the educational level of the workforce, both regionally and nationally. The program ties directly to the Oregon and Pacific Northwest's economic workforce goals. Continuous program improvement will include input from the Caterpillar Corporation and the PCC external advisory board.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the college be authorized to submit an application to the State Board of Education for an AAS degree in Dealer Service Technology.