

March 15, 2007

07-058

AUTHORITY TO APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING  
CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION IN GERONTOLOGY:  
ACTIVITY ASSISTANT; ACTIVITY DIRECTOR;  
ACTIVITY CONSULTANT

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APPROVED BY: Dr. Christine Chairsell, Vice President, Academic and  
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REPORT: The proposed certificates will allow students to pursue State-approved credentials that are shorter in length within the AAS degree in Gerontology. They include, Activity Assistant, Activity Director, and Activity Consultant. Creation of the certificate programs will enhance skill and career development for unlicensed direct care workers in assisted living facilities within the community-based care segment of the long-term care profession. Assisted living facilities are the fastest growing segment of the long-term care profession in both Oregon and the nation. PCC collaborated with two assisted living facilities to conduct skill analyses for two entry-level positions, developed standards for these positions, and designed the related work-based curriculum as a partner in the Assisted Living Training Consortium. The work-related goal is to develop shorter pathway certificates leading to the AAS in Gerontology and to demonstrate a sustainable approach to promoting cultural change in the long-term care profession. The certificate of completion, Gerontology: Activity Consultant is intended for students who already possess a four-year or other graduate level degree.

Indications are that this is a growing employment sector both at the national and State levels as the "boomer" generation approaches retirement age. Research for and

development of the certificates is part of the Robert Woods Johnson grant, awarded to PCC for this purpose.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the College be authorized to submit an application to the State Board of Education for three short-term certificates of completion: Gerontology: Activity Assistant; Gerontology: Activity Director; Gerontology: Activity Consultant