



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Dr. Joe Schaffer

To: LCCC Board of Trustees

From: Joe Schaffer, President

Date: March 17, 2021

Subject: Deactivation of the Auto Body Collision and Repair Credit Diploma Program

Our future, and that of our community and state, will require Laramie County Community College (LCCC) to establish new programs and services. Unfortunately, as I have shared over the course of the year, and even prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the fiscal environment we are in does not allow for these new things to be funded without the internal reallocation of existing resources. In other words, I have tried to state that to do new things, we would have to stop doing existing things.

During our budget reduction process this past fall, I tried my best to be clear that my recommendations to not close academic programs at that time was purposeful. We needed to preserve that capacity for the time when those resources would be needed for new investments at LCCC. This is the first instance of us having to act on that reality.

I have included the detailed analysis and recommendation by Dr. Jill Koslosky, the Dean of the School of Business, Agriculture and Technical Studies to close the Auto Body program at LCCC. I have also included the concurrence memo of that recommendation by Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kari Brown-Herbst. Dean Koslosky's analysis provides that evidence behind this recommendation.

Therefore, because of a limited need for an autobody collision and repair program within our service area, and the institutional need to reallocate those funds to new programming, I am advancing my recommendation to the Board of Trustees that the LCCC Autobody program be deactivated effectively at the end of this, the 2020/2021 academic year. All students currently in the program are slated to complete by this time, and LCCC is no longer accepting new students into the program.


One final note, I recognize there is interest in life enrichment programming in the auto body area. Courses we have offered have had good enrollments over the years. While sustaining these courses appear to be cost-prohibited as a result of facilities and equipment challenges, we are still exploring this option and will do our best to identify a solution for the community.

<p>Staff Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees approves the deactivation of the LCCC Auto Body Collision and Repair credit diploma program, effective at the end of the 2020/2021 academic year.</p>
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MEMORANDUM

Date: 23 February, 2021

To: Dr. Joe Schaffer, President

From: Dr. Kari Brown-Herbst, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs 

Re: Program Deactivation, Automotive Body Repair



The attached memo from Dean Koslosky details her recommendation that the Automotive Body Repair program be deactivated at the close of the Spring 2021 semester. I believe she has considered several important program metrics in arriving at this determination. Given the analysis provided in her correspondence, I concur with her recommendation that the College deactivate the Automotive Body Repair program at the conclusion of the Spring 2021 semester.

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 18, 2021

TO: Dr. Kari Brown-Herbst

FROM: Dr. Jill Koslosky

RE: LCCC Automotive Body Repair Program Deactivation Recommendation



Program History

In recent years, the enrollment trend for the LCCC Auto Body Repair program has been low, and while COVID-19 has had an impact on enrollments across all programs and courses, the current enrollment trends suggest a student population in the program to continue below a threshold of 12 students.

Enrollment

The table below presents our history in securing enrollments from students who express interest in the Auto Body Repair program. On average, one third of all students who initially express an interest in the Auto Body Repair program at LCCC are actually enrolled as is shown below.

Semester	Interested Students	Number of Applications	Number Enrolled	Matriculation Rate, Interest to Applied	Matriculation Rate from Applied to Enrolled
Spring 2017	8	7	3	88%	43%
Summer 2017	3	3	0	100%	0%
Fall 2017	27	15	4	56%	27%
Spring 2018	10	9	1	90%	11%
Summer 2018	1	1	0	100%	0%
Fall 2018	43	28	14	65%	50%
Spring 2019	-				
Summer 2019	-				
Fall 2019	39	21	9	54%	43%
Spring 2020	8	6	1	75%	17%
Summer 2020	1	0	0	0%	
Fall 2020	18	9	3	50%	33%
Spring 2021	3	2	1	67%	50%
Fall 2021	7	3		43%	0%
AVERAGE	14	8.7	3.3		

*source, Recruit CMS, LCCC Admissions, 02.12.2021

Enrollment in the Auto Body Repair (AUBR) courses has averaged 9 students over the last four years (below the threshold every year). These averages include students pursuing a degree as well as those hobbyists taking AUBR courses for personal interest and growth.

- 2017-2018 – 9 students
- 2018-2019 – 10 students
- 2019-2020 – 11 students
- 2020-2021 – 6 students

An examination of the credential-seeking enrollments per semester over the same period exemplifies the enrollment trends and my concern for the viability of the program.

Semester	Average Section Enrollment	Fall to Spring Attrition
Fall 2017	6.5	
Spring 2018	6.14	5.5%
Fall 2018	9	
Spring 2018	6.4	28.9%
Fall 2019	9.8	
Spring 2020	9.8	0
Fall 2020	6.2	
Spring 2021	4.4	29%

Program Analysis

In Fall 2020 the Program Analysis study was conducted in order to measure program and course performance, cost, and economic potential/outcomes. All of the College's programs were analyzed on a series of measures in order to assess program viability. According to that study Auto Body had the following measures:

- Scored a 2 on program majors from 2019-2020, placing in the 40th percentile amongst all programs in the College's catalog. This measure reflects the unduplicated headcount of students who declared this as their program of study.
- Scored a 2 on job listings, a measure of the regional number of job postings for occupations associated with the program. This metric scored in the 40th percentile of all programs at LCCC.
- Scored a 1 on regional wages which reflects the average regional median salary of individuals working in occupations related to this program. This score ranks in the 20th percentile of programs at LCCC.
- Scored a 2 on graduates who are employed in Wyoming two years after completing their program. This result placed in the 40th percentile.
- Success rates in the program are high (87%) which places Auto Body in the 80th percentile of the College's programs. However, the number of annual credentials is low.
- Cost per FTE is high at \$3,785.19 per student scoring in the 80th percentile among all programs at the College
- 2.3% projected growth in the industry places it in the 40th percentile when compared to other programs at the College.

The Program Analysis, Budget Reallocation Support report summarized the Auto Body measures as follows: "Automotive body repair earned 72.5 percent of its possible efficacy points and 46.7 percent of its possible value points. Its lowest value metric was regional average wages. Automotive body repair did not have any overall metrics in which it scored a five."

~ LCCC Institutional Research, 2020

Program Information

While low student enrollment numbers are of concern, it should be noted that it is not necessarily an indication of the quality of the LCCC program. LCCC Auto Body Repair has maintained a high quality of training and instructional expertise as evident through its repeat programmatic accreditation through the ASE Education Foundation and I-CAR. These accreditation reviews examine equipment, objectives, involvement with industry and other critical indicators. The program has received tool grants each of the last three years through the I-CAR Professional Development Program Education Edition. The faculty in Auto Body has had consistent support from active advisory committee members who have needs for people to work in the local shops and are having recruiting issues that mirror those of the program.

Industry History

The automotive collision repair or autobody industry has sustained significant changes over the years due to a variety of factors which include but are not limited to: significant influence from the insurance industry, lower starting wages for entry level technicians when compared to comparable positions in automotive mechanical, diesel, or other trades positions, and the high cost of repairs due to cost of materials, parts, etc.

Low enrollment in autobody programs is not unique to LCCC as programs at public and private post-secondary institutions across the U.S have either significantly reduced capacity or shuttered programs all together. In addition, due to the unique complexity of autobody programs and the cost of specialized tooling and materials, many high school autobody programs have been phased out as well, reducing the feeder programs that would lead to a college-level degree.

While the nature of the autobody trade is extremely complex and lends itself well to formalized training, the reality is that the shortage of technicians has caused the industry to either onboard untrained workers and train them through on-the-job training similar to other trades industries or to limit the quantity and type of work they can do based on the capability of the workforce. For example, many shops will turn away any custom or restoration work and focus only on insurance authorized repairs or similar on late model vehicles. In addition, due to the influence of the insurance industry, many vehicles have essentially become disposable because of rapid depreciation and high repair costs rendering them in a total loss or salvage condition after an accident.

Recommendation

Due to a combination of factors including chronic low enrollment and changing industry need, it is the recommendation of the Dean of the School of Business, Agriculture, and Technical Studies, that LCCC deactivate the Auto Body credit diploma effective Fall 2021.