

San Joaquin Valley College Evaluation
Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT)
Summary & Recommendation – May 2015

Proposal: Offer a Respiratory Therapy Program (RT) at a baccalaureate award level.

Location: Online modality option, blended option on Ontario, Rancho Cordova and shared Central Valley

Recommendation: Move proposal from the *Evaluation* phase to *Execution* phase.

Background:

1. Senior Management granted approval to move BSRT program from the *Exploration* phase to the *Evaluate* phase January 2015
2. One of the three American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) projects identified in *2015 and Beyond* is “increase access to baccalaureate degrees for RT students enrolled in AS Degree granting institutions”
3. CoARC 2014 Accreditation in Respiratory Care Education Report released March 2015 added a data section to assist AARC in achieving their initiative to increase BSRT access and has included considerable focus in the report on Baccalaureate Degree Eligibility
 - a. Compared to 2013, there was a 1.8% decrease in ASRT programs and a 7% increase in BSRT programs
 - b. Compared to 2012, the number of new enrollments in 2013 decreased by 6.8% for ASRT programs and new enrollments increased by 7.9% for BSRT programs
4. To increase BS degree options for California communities workforce, California AB 850 (January 2015) provided grant funds to Skyline Community College in San Mateo County and Modesto Community College in San Joaquin County to pilot the development and offering of a BSRT Program

Evaluation of the BSRT

1. Enroll Capable Applicants

- a. There are greater than 151, 209 ASRT RRTs renewing licenses in the US between 2012 and 2013 according the national RRT license renewal report
 - i. SJVC brand is recognized and well regarded in California as an ASRT awarding institution with > 250 graduates per year and a RRT pass rate of 83.5% (210)
 - ii. California has the highest number of working RTs in the US at 21,279 or 13%
 - iii. Texas and Florida are ranked two and three in number of working RRTs, Texas at 13,918 or 8% and Florida at 10,012 or 6%
- b. Competition:
 - i. CoARC’s March 2015 Report notes that 14% of RT programs confer BS degrees, graduating 10% (801) of 7,818 graduates in 2013

- ii. Loma Linda University is the only BSRT program in California, graduating an average of 13 BSRT pre-licensure students per year for over the last 5 years
- iii. Ohio's Boise State University and Texas's Midwestern State University are the two senior regionally accredited institutions offering an accelerated ASRT to BSRT programs to RRTs via fully online modality
- iv. California AB 850 authorized two California community colleges grant funds to develop and offer a BSRT program to serve their communities
 - 1. Skyline Community College plans to offer the initial program followed by Modesto Community College
 - 2. Initial target for enrollment of students for Skyline is mid-2017
 - 3. Skyline has not started work on building curriculum as of February 2015 (heard by J. Rutherford and R. Guzman)

2. Achieve Graduate Professional Success

- a. Employment demand throughout the USA indicates a current health market for BSRTs with RRT license
 - i. Wanted Analytics reports 11,797 unique recruitments for licensed RTs between 12/31/2014 and 4/30/2015
 - 1. 1,789 unique recruitments reference a preference for a BS Degree
 - 2. 451 unique companies reference a preference for a BS Degree
 - ii. SJVC graduates seeking employment have seen increasing competition for RT positions in recent years as well as declining enrollment in Bakersfield and Visalia, a BS Degree will offer both opportunity for SJVC and a competitive advantage students
 - 1. Nationwide, 2014 placements for BSRT graduates is 91.7% with only 2 (3.5%) of 57 programs below CoARC's 70% placement threshold
 - 2. Nationwide, 2014 placements for ASRT programs is 83.5% with 37 (10.1%) of 366 programs below CoARC's 70% placement threshold
- b. Per input via respiratory care associations a BSRT with an RRT license is expected to increase as preference in the job market and organizations are emphasizing their preference for increasing ASRT programs to BSRT awarding programs
- c. The option available for working ASRT – with RRT license to pursue an ASRT to BSRT will enhance promotion opportunities
 - i. Across California, a RT Manager position results in a salary 6% to 43% > than a RT salary

ii. Market salary per Wanted Analytics

Location	BSRT Median Salary (ASRT Median Salary)	BSRT 10 th Percentile (ASRT 10 th Percentile)	90 th Percentile (ASRT 90 th Percentile)
Nationally	\$58,520 (\$58,100)	\$50,600 (\$47,300)	\$65,900 (\$68,950)
California	\$62,300 (\$59,300)	\$51,850 (\$52,350)	\$72,700 (\$66,250)

- d. BS Degree Respiratory Therapy instructors at educational institutions are in demand throughout California and the United States
- e. Debt-to-Earnings Ratio is < 8% and Credit Default Risk is low due wage potential

3. Achieve Student Academic Success

- a. SJVC RT Program Directors (PD) have invested time to review program design and course options needed to complete an ASRT to BSRT program
 - i. Internal resources are subject matter experts (SME) and are available to assist in development of respiratory course content and oversight of course development
 - ii. External assistance to oversee development of upper division general education courses may be required, online general education consultants and publisher assistance are readily available
- b. Two program design options
 - i. Full Online Modality: ASRT – RRTs are admitted to BSRT and marketed throughout the US
 - 1. 60 weeks, one course title offered per 5-weeks
 - 2. One wheel with 11 of 12 courses taken in any order and capstone course always last
 - 3. One FTE instructor required per module assuming ≤ 24 students / course
 - a. Instructors with online teaching experience and ≥ MS Degree may be recruited nationally; SJVC RT instructors with ≥ MS Degree and Online experience may be recruited
 - b. As census grows additional tracks to reduce LOA gaps will be implemented
 - ii. Blended Option: SJVC ASRT – RRTs campuses are admitted to BSRT Program and seek approval for future BSRT pre-licensure program of same design, marketing will be in SJVC RT campus geographic areas
 - 1. Design will mimic Online Modality with instruction online and a one day per week three hour seminar during normal campus operating hours
 - 2. Course structure will remain in sync with Online course start and end dates
 - 3. All general education courses will be taken via Online Modality

4. A blended program option is intended to acclimate the ASRT-RRT community to online learning, the ASRT community has expressed a preference for physical interaction with faculty and their cohort members during their education
5. Current SJVC instructors with \geq MS Degree and part-time onground duties as well as clinical affiliate site content experts are available for instruction
 - iii. SJVC will require senior level general education instructors with qualifications and expectations comparable to established senior institutions
- c. Support services are not anticipated to require unique personnel

4. Secure and Maintain Accreditation & Approvals

- a. Seek approvals for an ASRT to BSRT Degree Program
 - i. Propose online and blended ASRT to BSRT to start in Spring 2016
- b. ACCJC Substantive Change proposal approval granted in November 2015
 - i. A Guide for Preparing an ACCJC Baccalaureate Degree Substantive Change Proposal confirms that there are no obstacles that would prevent SJVC from offering a BSRT Program
 - ii. J. Rutherford and R. Guzman have committed to have curriculum's program design and course outlines ready by September 2015

5. Ensure financial stability

- a. Low cost of entry
 - i. Online modality infrastructure exists, not expected to need unusual support personnel to run the program
 - ii. Instructor and textbook cost is tied to tuition, budget estimate set tuition at \$12,250
 - iii. No special equipment is required to offer program
- b. May contribute to 10 money
- c. Revenue > \$1M per year based at a stable 100 student census
- d. Gross profit estimated at 80%.

6. Increase SJVC Presence

- a. Capture BS Degree seeking student expanding SJVC into new market area
- b. Extend RT enrollments to greater wide geographic area
- c. Increase RT program census by \sim 100 students

SJVC BSRT - EXECUTION PHASE TASK TIMELINE

Prepare program design and BSRT course outlines	Jeff Rutherford	6/5/2015	8/3/2015
Prepare program general education course outlines	Carole Brown	6/5/2015	9/4/2015
Develop 2-year budget estimate and perform financial analysis for appropriate target student start	Russ Lebo	6/5/2015	9/4/2015
Develop online courses using J. Rutherford’s content expert team as resource	Pat Fox	8/3/2015	4/11/2016
Identify textbooks and library resources for respiratory and general education courses	Jeff Rutherford and Pat Fox	9/4/2015	9/25/2015
Build program and program schedules in SJVC’s student record system	Cheyenne Elizaldi	9/4/2015	9/25/2015
Prepare and submit ACCJC Substantive Change proposal for approval to offer the BSRT program	Crystal VanderTuig	6/5/2015	10/4/2015
Recruit and provide New Faculty Orientation for online modality RT and GE instructors	Pat Fox and Jeff Rutherford	11/16/2015	4/11/2016
Recruit and provide product knowledge training to online RT Admission Advisor	Wendi Oliveira	1/4/2016	1/11/2016
Provide Financial Aid training knowledge to online Tuition Planners	Kevin Robinson	1/4/2016	1/11/2016
Launch marketing to achieve a lead flow to sustain a consistent 100 student census	Beth Hyde	1/11/2016	1/25/2016
Set up BSRT Program on all reporting dashboards	Adam Lefaive	1/11/2016	1/25/2016
Start student enrollment in BSRT program	Online Admissions Team	1/4/2016	4/15/2016
Hold faculty meetings to begin identifying assessment plans and tools for course and program learning outcomes (respiratory and general education courses)	Jeff Rutherford and Pat Fox	1/4/2016	12/31/2016
Develop and deliver New Student Orientation to first student cohort	Pat Fox	4/11/2016	4/15/2016
Deliver first day of instruction	Pat Fox	4/18/2016	4/18/2016
Move BSRT program to standard review process	Senior Management		
Evaluate BSRT program development and implementation processes	Senior Management		