Program Review Final Report

for

Basic Law Enforcement Training

Submitted to

Dr. Eric McKeithan, President (and serving as interim Vice President of Instruction)

by

Program Review Committee Chair:
Robert Philpott, Dean of Vocational/Technical Education

Program Review Team:
Ricky Simpson, Director BLET
Daryl Bruestle, Assistant BLET Director
Kim Lawing, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness
Ed Higgins, Public Service Department Chair
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant Institutional Effectiveness
Pat Hogan, Business Department Chair
John Ward, Lead Instructor Criminal Justice
Jennifer Frazee, Career Service Counselor

Signatures:

Lead Instructor: 

Instructional Dean: 

[Signatures]
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Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 11:00 a.m.

I. List of Team Members

Ricky Simpson, Director BLET
Daryl Braestle, Assistant BLET Director
Robert Philpott, Dean of Vocational/Technical Education
Kim Lawing, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness
Ed Higgins, Public Service Department Chair
Patsy Lackey, Administrative Assistant Institutional Effectiveness
Pat Hogan, Business Department Chair
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II. Analysis of Results:

A. Strengths

Enrollment in the program is strong and continually increasing.

The graduation rate is strong and increasing each year.

The program is accredited by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

BLET program graduates exceed the mandated pass rate on the state certification examination.

CFCC presents more graduates for certification than any other community college in the state.

The program has an outstanding reputation in the region.

Program Director is a retired Chief of Police and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the program. He has an excellent working relationship with area law enforcement agencies.

Classes are taught by certified law enforcement officers.

The Advisory Committee is very active and supportive of the program.
On the Graduating Student Opinion Survey, 90% of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the quality of the program. Two of the respondents marked “Not Applicable” and 1 respondent “Multi-Marked” the survey.

On the Currently Enrolled Student Survey, 99.9% of responding students indicated they are satisfied with the quality of instruction and the overall program.

B. Weaknesses

Aging infrastructure of the program such as aging vehicles and aging weapons for training could limit training capabilities. The program currently needs two new vehicles for training purposes and the range master has informed Director that new weapons are needed.

Ammunition costs keep rising. The increase in cost could cause a problem because of the current budget constraints.

The hiring freeze caused by a weak economy could cause graduates to lose their certification. Graduates must be sworn in within one year of certification or lose their certification.

C. Opportunities

Most of the program objectives in Strategic Planning on Line (SPOL) should be student learning outcomes. Assessments for the objectives should be made by individuals other than the instructor responsible for the outcome.

Some weapons companies will supply new weapons in exchange for the aging weapons. With the current budget constraints this would be an avenue to explore to alleviate the cost of updating weapons for the program.

A good working relationship with continuing education gives the opportunity for students to receive additional supplemental areas of certification.

Several of the smaller BLET programs in the region are closing. This may increase enrollment in our program.

Threats

The state is in the process of rewriting the certification examination. This poses a threat to the pass rate on the test until instructors know the content of the test and can revise their unit test to accurately reflect what will be expected of graduates. Also the test will be more problem based which could cause problems for some students. The reading requirement for admission may need to be adjusted to confront this issue.

Ammunition costs keep rising.
Facilities are adequate however as enrollment continues to grow more classroom space, storage space, and restroom facilities will be needed. An exercise room and showers would be an asset to the program because of the physical requirements of the program.

III. Committee Recommendations

The team recommended that the college:

Continue program with the following recommendations.

Explore the feasibility and requirements for the weapons exchange program with CFCC business office and the weapons manufacturers.

Request needed equipment during the budget process.

Monitor admissions requirement to make sure incoming students have the required reading levels that will enable them to be successful and pass the new problem based certification examination.

A thank you note should be sent to the county manager recognizing the cooperation and support of county agencies in supporting the BLET program.

Director and instructors are commended for their professionalism, leadership, and working relationship with area law enforcement and government agencies.

Review again in five years.