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Board approves new healthcare program at Lake Area Technical Institute

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Education has approved a community healthcare worker program at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown. This associate of applied science degree program will be 18 months in length, with 12-month diploma and six-month certificate options.

Community healthcare workers are often responsible for the health of community members who may not be cared for by traditional medical institutions. This often includes the uninsured, migrant workers and immigrants. Those served include people of many different ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. Community healthcare workers may be responsible for ensuring that culturally diverse populations and underserved communities receive proper medical attention. They often provide some basic direct services as well, including first aid and some types of health screenings.

The program will begin in fall 2017 with 18-20 students expected to enroll in the first year.