Bluegrass Community & Technical College
Application for Offering a New Focus Area

1. Name of Focus Area proposed:

   Associate in Science with a Focus in Informatics

2. Effective Date (Semester, Year):

   Spring 2013

3. Area/program responsible for Focus Area:

   CSIS Division

4. Describe the Focus Area, identify the minimal number of hours and list the courses to be included:

   Informatics is a broad academic field of study in the design, development, storage, retrieval, analysis, and management of information. Its roots lie in computer science and database administration while its applications are multidisciplinary. A few of its specializations include bioinformatics, biochemistry informatics, business informatics, environmental informatics, geoinformatics, health informatics, legal informatics, music informatics, and social informatics.

   The proposed focus area will prepare students to transfer to a BS/BA program to continue studies in informatics or one of its specializations.

   The focus area in Informatics will include (16 hours):
   > **INF 128: Principles of Informatics (3 hours – Adopted from NKU)**
   > **INF 120: Elementary Programming (3 hours – Adopted from NKU)**
   > **INF 282: Introduction to Databases (3 hours – Adopted from NKU)**
   > **INF 260: Object Oriented Programming I (3 hours – Adopted from NKU)**
   > **INF 260L: Object Oriented Programming Laboratory (1 hour – Adopted from NKU)**
   > **INF 286: Introduction to Web Development (3 hours – Adopted from NKU)**

5. Rationale for offering the Focus Area

   According to the Kentucky Occupational Outlook to 2018[1], three of the top five "fastest growing Kentucky occupations requiring a bachelor's degree" are within a computer-related field. The second occupation listed is Database Administrators, one of the primary occupations for individuals trained in informatics. Additionally, the projected occupational outlook for Database Administrators in the United States (requiring a bachelor's degree), per the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2010 – 2020), is for the demand to grow faster than average.

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[1] http://www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov/admin/uploadedPublications/395_outlook.pdf Chart 6 on page 15

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has teamed with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), to develop an IT Informatics pathway for high school students to transition to college. The pilot for the KDE Informatics pathway will begin in the 2012-2013 academic year. A Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) focus area in Informatics will provide a logical destination for the high school students wishing to continue their studies in Informatics. Upon graduation from BCTC with a focus area in Informatics, they can pursue a BA/BS in an Informatics discipline at a four-year institution which offers such programs. KDE has partnered with Northern Kentucky University (NKU) in developing the SREB curriculum. Any articulation agreement(s) made between NKU and KDE will also benefit BCTC students interested in Informatics.

6. Persons primarily responsible for courses in the Focus Area (I.e. coordinators of areas from courses listed in the Focus Area)

NAME(S)	AREA(S)	CONTACTED (**Yes**/No)
Melanie Williamson	**CIT**	**YES**
Cindy Tucker	**CIT**	**YES**

7. Who should be contacted further about the proposal?

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