



# South Dakota Board of Technical Education

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**To:** South Dakota Board of Technical Education  
**From:** Nick Wendell, Executive Director, Board of Technical Education  
**Date:** 6/22/20  
**Re:** WDT LPN Whitewood Expansion Recommendation

Western Dakota Technical College (WDT) is requesting approval from the Board of Technical Education to begin a cohort of their existing Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program in Whitewood, SD. If approved, instruction would begin in January 2021. According to our existing academic program approval guidelines, this request is deemed a program expansion. WDT completed a program expansion prospectus outlining the parameters of the program, labor market demands, and relevant industry support.

The prospectus was shared and discussed during the most recent presidents' call, with no objections raised from other presidents. I have had continued conversations with Dr. Bolman regarding the need for more LPNs to serve this region of the Black Hills.

Given the desire to offer existing curriculum in a new location in January 2021 and the fact that the Board of Technical Education does not have another regular meeting slated until August, I am recommending the board take action on this item during a special call-in meeting on June 25, 2020.

If the board chooses to approve the proposed program expansion, WDT will be able to move forward in their work with the Higher Learning Commission and the United States Department of Education.