

## Grant Round Application for G-020-C

### DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS G—020-C

#### **“Commercial Drivers License Training Program”**

Submitted by: TrainND-Northwest Williston State College  
Request for \$165,480; Total Project Costs \$373,980

**Description of the Project:** TrainND-Northwest Williston State College is requesting grant funds for two simulators (Doron CDL driving and the Airbrake) and a trailer for the simulators to allow the training to be delivered at various locations. TrainND has previously provided the CDL training in partnership with the Center for Transportation Safety based in Colorado. With the increased activity in the oil and gas industry, the area has seen an increase in the need for truck drivers. This need for individuals to have CDL's also affects the service companies, as many of their employees need a Class A CDL for their job requirements.

#### **Technical Reviewers' Comments**

##### **Reviewer 20C-03**

The use of driving simulators in the industry has been discussed at length, especially by programs in the eastern part of the state. The hang up has been the experience and the understanding of the issues, research, literature and implementation of the program. The grant applicant displayed great knowledge of the information surrounding the issue and implementation of the solution.

**Recommendation: Fund**

##### **Reviewer 20C-04**

The Oil and Gas industry has an interest in the ultimate number of trained drivers that successfully complete the program which goes beyond just measuring success on completion and pass rates. The ultimate benefit to the Oil and Gas industry would include a more comprehensive scope from recruitment of adequate class sizes, retention, completion, pass rates and ultimately the number connected to the industry in ND for employment.

**Recommendation: Funding May Be Considered**

#### **Director's Recommendations:**

The objectives outlined in the application run parallel with the mission of the Oil and Gas Research Council promoting growth through education. On behalf of the Oil and Gas Research Program, it is my recommendation that an industry match be required. In addition, reporting should include information on recruitment, class size, retention, course completion, pass rates and drivers working in North Dakota. If TrainND can provide the support and matching funds from an outside industry source, it would be my recommendation to fund this project up to \$50,000.

**Recommendation: Funding up to \$50,000 contingent upon reporting as outlined above and a dollar-for-dollar industry match.**