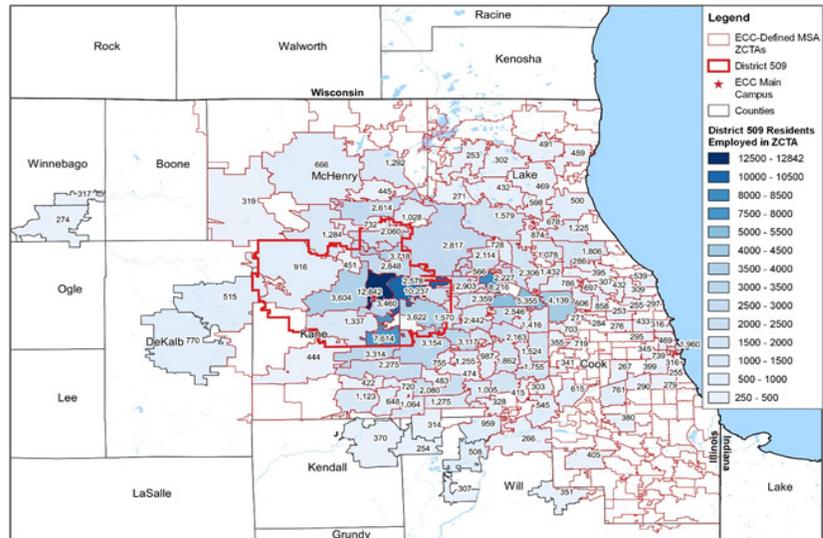


# Elgin Community College Strategic Program Alignment

Elgin, Illinois



## Project Information

Completion Date  
February 2020

Services Provided  
Strategic Program Alignment

Rickes Associates conducted a strategic program alignment study for Elgin Community College, identifying opportunities to create, expand, or contract academic programs to better align with current and projected labor market demand.

Elgin Community College (ECC) enrolled 9,000 students across four primary locations at the time of this study. The main campus, located in Elgin, Illinois, serves Community College District 509, covering approximately half of Kane County and portions of DeKalb, Cook, McHenry, and DuPage counties. As part of an overall master planning team, Rickes Associates (RA) conducted a targeted study to aid the College in identifying existing academic programs that were candidates for expansion or reduction and exploring possible new academic program offerings based on labor market demand.

RA helped the College refine the geographic area of its regional labor market by analyzing the commuting patterns of District 509 residents and compared the number of undergraduate program completers from ECC and other area institutions to area job opening projections by subject area and level. Programs offered or proposed by ECC and having an oversupply of completers – especially those programs with relatively low labor market demand – were identified to be maintained at current levels or scaled back. Programs having a high demand – particularly those with a deficit of program completers – were identified as candidates for maintenance or expansion, or, if not offered by the College, as possible future offerings.

Over 100 programs were reviewed, with 39 current ECC programs categorized as having a regional deficit at the associate and/or certificate level. Only two programs reported surpluses of completers. More telling, almost 60 occupations were noted for which there were no linked programs at ECC and which exhibited regional deficits at both the associate and certificate levels. The study outcome was an analysis ECC can readily operationalize, when combined with its local knowledge and employer relations, to reorient its academic offerings and improve graduate employability.