



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

January 31, 2005

DEADLINE RESPONSE: February 25, 2005 5:00p.m.

MEMORANDUM

To: Community College Presidents
Basic Skills Directors
HRD Directors
Deans, Continuing Education
BioWork/Biotechnology-related Curriculum Contacts

From: H. Martin Lancaster

Subject: Pathways to Employment—Biotechnology/Pharmaceutical Occupations
Request for Proposals (RFP)

The State of North Carolina received funding based on the state's Program Year 2002 performance of three programs: Workforce Investment Act (Title I -state title); Workforce Investment Act (Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act); and Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. Representatives from these programs met and developed a plan for allocating the funds. North Carolina plans to use a portion of this Performance Incentive Grant to fund projects to enhance the ability of secondary and post-secondary education to prepare students for careers in the field of biotechnology, an area that is projected to have high job growth in the next several years. This initiative will strengthen the ability of existing secondary and post-secondary programs to provide a continuum of career awareness and training in the field of biotechnology/pharmaceuticals.

The North Carolina Community College System Office plans to fund six (6) demonstration grants at selected community colleges to increase training opportunities in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical occupational area. Local projects will be designed following the Pathways to Employment model that systematically integrates the three components of Basic Skills, HRD and occupational (biotechnology/pharmaceutical) training. The project represents an opportunity to target individuals who might not otherwise have access to training in this growing field. After completing the Biotechnology/Pharmaceuticals Pathway program, individuals will be better prepared

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to pursue further training in this area. The initial success of completing the Pathways program will enable individuals to develop confidence and awareness to pursue additional training in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical occupational area.

To ensure that the demonstration projects are funded in local areas with additional biotechnology/pharmaceutical training opportunities and ultimately career opportunities in the biotechnology/ pharmaceutical area, proposals will only be considered from colleges with current biotechnology/ pharmaceutical curriculum programs and/or BioWork. This connection will help to ensure that individuals completing the Pathways program have a natural progression for further training in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical area. The Pathways model will provide participants with an opportunity to progress directly to further technical training through BioWork or biotechnology/pharmaceutical curriculum programs.

Each participating college will be required to convene the appropriate local level staff from the areas of basic skills, HRD, occupational (biotechnology/pharmaceuticals) training to design a Pathways to Employment Program for Biotechnology/Pharmaceutical Careers that fully integrates these three training areas.

Our intention is to be inclusive in the distribution of this RFP so that all relevant staff will be informed about this opportunity. For this reason, we are sending this information to College Presidents, Deans of Continuing Education, HRD Directors, Basic Skills Directors, and contacts for BioWork and Biotechnology related curriculum programs. The intention is to facilitate a cooperative effort among these staff in the development and submission of the proposal and to notify all institutions of this initiative.

Each of the six selected colleges will receive \$15,000 for the program planning phases (March 2005-June 2005). Upon submission of the required planning phase report/documentation, an additional \$55,000 for program implementation will be available for the July 2005-February 2006 time period. These funds are to be used for allowable expenses as shown on the budget page of this application.

Please complete the proposal forms and required information according to the attached guidelines and submit them to Karen Cafferty Rogers by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2005. A committee will review the proposals during the February 28 - March 1, 2005 time period. State Board action is scheduled for March 21, 2005.

If you have any questions, please call Karen Cafferty Rogers at 919-807-7215 (email rogersk@ncccs.cc.nc.us), Barbara Boyce at 919-807-7158 (email boyceb@ncccs.cc.nc.us) or Randy Whitfield at 919-807-7132 (email randyw@ncccs.cc.nc.us).

Thank you for your interest.