

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**Enterprise Course Management System Contract
(Blackboard Learning System Level II Upgrade)**

(Contract Renewal)

Request: The State Board is asked to approve: (1) A \$1,400,764 contract submitted by BLACKBOARD, INC., the online course management system (CMS) used by 52 of the North Carolina Community Colleges and the System Office Virtual Learning Community license for a total of 53 licenses to run July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and (2) Continuation of the existing contract that expires June 30, 2009.

Rationale for Contract: The NCCCS has been allocated \$1,370,850 recurring funds to provide "Enterprise" Course Management System (E-CMS) online teaching and learning software. An E-CMS is required by all of the institutions for compatibility with the NCCCS Learning Object Repository (LOR) and CIS student and enrollment data.

This contract renewal is the second year of a three-year contract providing Blackboard enterprise course management system (E-CMS) software to 53 community college license holders. This contract is a single contract negotiated by NCCCS personnel to realize costs savings by all colleges for Blackboard CMS products and services beyond the scope of E-CMS online learning tools. This request is pending availability of funds. Blackboard's E-CMS product is termed Blackboard Learning System Level II.

The Schedule of Uniform Pricing Structure provides license costs for contract years one through three.

The contract has provisions for purchase of extra services to individual colleges at a uniform price structure including:

Content Management System is the (proprietary) "learning object" repository feature of Blackboard, which allows creation of sharing of digital learning materials among courses within an institution.

The E-Community Portal facilitates resource sharing, group collaboration, and is a full-featured e-portal.

ASP Service (Level III) is a complete consortium package offering colleges hosted services that are branded with individual college logos and customization.

NCCCS institutions not electing to use Blackboard:

- Blue Ridge Community College
- Isothermal Community College

- Pamlico Community College
- Mayland Community College
- Randolph Community College
- Southeastern Community College

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the contract by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State IT Procurement Office.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The State Board is asked to approve the second year of a three-year uniform pricing contract. The year two request is for \$1,400,764 for a contract beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. The State Board is also asked to approve a continuation of the existing contract that expires June 30, 2009.

Fund Availability: The NCCCS will provide Blackboard's E-CMS, termed Blackboard Learning System, service for 53 community college license holders contracted with Blackboard from state appropriations. Each community college will be invoiced annually by Blackboard, Inc. for services beyond the scope of Blackboard Learning System, based on the services selected by the college. This contract is subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the General Assembly.

Contact Persons: Bill Randall, Associate Vice President for Learning Technology Systems, or Sandra Williams, Senior Vice President and Chief of Technology and Workforce Development.