

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Allocation to Gaston College for Developing Virtual Learning Objects
and Faculty Training

Request: The State Board is asked to approve an allocation to Gaston College (BioEducation Center) for an amount not to exceed \$309,022 to develop life science related virtual learning objects, store the objects in the Virtual Learning Object Repository (VLOR), and develop/deliver train-the-trainer sessions on how to build courses using the VLOR.

Rationale for Allocation: The NC Community College System BioNetwork is interested in building capacity and modernizing the way life science education and training occurs. Expensive equipment and permanent facilities are difficult to fund and maintain. However, equipment, facilities, and unsafe processes can be easily and safely simulated using the same technology that is used to create video games. The NC Community College System VLOR can be used to store and distribute the virtual learning objects anytime they are needed. Faculty can access the VLOR and build courses using learning objects to produce engaging and interactive courses. The BioEducation Center at Gaston College possesses the expertise and ability to develop VLOs. Therefore, the BioEducation Center, through this allocation, is expected to meet the desired outcomes below:

- Develop virtual learning objects (3-D-based simulations, flash objects, or interactive 2-D engagements) on life science and biotechnology skill standards and competencies;
- Populate the VLOR with the life science learning objects;
- Develop training for faculty on the use of the VLOR to build courses; and
- Deliver the training to a minimum of 16 college faculty and BioNetwork staff.

Time Period: October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Fund Availability: BioNetwork State Allocation. These funds are pending receipt of a budget plan from Gaston College (BioEducation Center). If the Governor requires reversions during fiscal year 2009-2010, this allocation is subject to the same proportional reversion as the System.

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