

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

BioNetwork Grant Award Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Request: The State Board is requested to approve the attached allocations totaling \$284,000 for the BioNetwork Grant Award recommendations for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Rationale for Allocation: BioNetwork is a cost efficient, effective strategy to network community colleges across North Carolina, providing specialized training, curriculum and equipment necessary to develop a world-class workforce for biomanufacturing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the life science cluster. BioNetwork provides much needed resources to community colleges to enhance capacity to meet the current and future workforce needs of this tremendous growth industry. It plays a major role in attracting and growing this industry cluster in North Carolina, and preparing our citizens for good paying jobs in manufacturing and support positions. BioNetwork is also providing important on-going support for incumbent worker training and retraining as new processes and technologies are introduced.

The recommended community colleges for the 2010-2011 BioNetwork Grant Award have, through a competitive process and review, demonstrated the need for activities that include:

- purchasing of new equipment
- purchasing of laboratory supplies
- upgrading of outdated equipment
- connecting programs to customized training projects
- improving college-industry support

Method of Allocation: A total of 9 applications from 23 colleges with life science programs were submitted to a single review panel for consideration for BioNetwork funding. The review panel consisted of representatives from the following entities:

- BioNetwork Center Management
- North Carolina Community College System Office (Senior Economic Development Team)

The BioNetwork Grant Award review panel recommends 5 community college projects for funding that demonstrate the need for biotechnology-related activities, equipment, and supplies. Proposals not selected did not meet review criteria to qualify for the available BioNetwork funds. The most common grant deficiencies include:

- lack of industry support (primary determinant)
- failure to justify the need
- lack of connections to customized training
- poorly written narrative and objectives

Allocation Amount and Time Period: An allocation of \$284,000 is being requested for the period August 15, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Funding Source: Funding is contingent on FY 2010-2011 State General Fund appropriations for BioNetwork.

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