

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Contract for Broadband Connectivity

Request: The State Board is requested to approve a contract with MCNC for up to \$4,125,700 with an option to renew for four years for continuing broadband connectivity for fifty-eight community colleges.

Background: In June 2008, the State Board approved a \$306,699 contract with MCNC for broadband connectivity data service for seven North Carolina community colleges. In this contract Wake Technical CC, Central Piedmont CC, Cape Fear CC, Forsyth Technical CC, Haywood CC, Carteret CC and Durham TCC received 100 Megabyte per second (Mbps) data service. The original contract covered July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and was amended in March 2009 for an increase of \$1,427 per month for the remainder of the current fiscal year (April, May, and June) to fund “circuit” costs for Forsyth Technical Community College.

In August 2009, the State Board approved a continuation of the seven community colleges at a cost of \$181,818 with a secondary request approved in the amount of \$614,188 to add an additional thirteen community colleges to the network. The additional colleges were Alamance CC, Asheville-Buncombe TCC, Blue Ridge CC, Caldwell CC & TI, Cleveland CC, Fayetteville TCC, Gaston College, Mayland CC, McDowell TCC, Mitchell CC, Rockingham CC, Rowan-Cabarrus CC and Western Piedmont CC bringing the total to twenty.

In May 2010, the State Board approved a continuation of the twenty community colleges at a cost of \$700,977 with a secondary request approved in the amount of \$2,062,850 to add the remaining thirty-eight community colleges to the network for a period of six months. The additional colleges were Beaufort CC, Bladen CC, Brunswick CC, Catawba Valley CC, Central Carolina CC, Coastal Carolina CC, College of the Albemarle, Craven CC, Davidson County CC, Edgecombe CC, Guilford Technical CC, Halifax CC, Isothermal CC, James Sprunt CC, Johnston CC, Lenoir CC, Martin CC, Montgomery CC, Nash CC, Pamlico CC, Piedmont CC, Pitt CC, Randolph CC, Richmond CC, Roanoke-Chowan CC, Robeson CC, Sampson CC, Sandhills CC, South Piedmont CC, Southeastern CC, Southwestern CC, Stanly CC, Surry CC, Tri-County CC, Vance-Granville CC, Wayne CC, Wilkes CC, and Wilson CC.

Rationale: As part of the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), MCNC shall provide the colleges with Internet and National Research Networks access via MCNC’s NCREN connections in the Research Triangle Park and Charlotte areas. Each college will receive a 100Mb/second connection that is burstable to 1Gb/second upon demand. MCNC will use commercially reasonable efforts to provide such access 24 hours a day, 7 days per week with full operation support either via on-site assistance or pager access to provide 99.9% average monthly

uptime of the Internet facilities owned by MCNC. MCNC will provide and operate an 800 number for free user access to the service desk (hours of operation are continuous with 24hours/day, 365 days/year) for the 58 community colleges and the System Office. MCNC will provide web access to network performance statistics for every community college via a secure portal that is refreshed every 10 seconds. This will insure that the information displayed is the most current view of network performance. MCNC will provide managed router service (maintain, update, test, configure, and repair the NCREN routers at each 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 contract amount is up to \$4,125,700 for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 with an option to renew for four years. Total cost for the five year period, at the same annual cost, will be up to \$20,628,500.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is contingent upon the availability of FY 11-12 General Fund appropriations.

Contact Persons:

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