

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Contract for V-Scope Explorer: Anatomy & Physiology

Request: The State Board is asked to approve the purchase of a perpetual license for the V-Scope Explorer program from Science Learning Resources, Inc. to provide an online application for Anatomy and Physiology courses for a one-time license fee of \$50,000 as well as a maintenance fee of \$12,500 each year for four years. This software enables the Virtual Learning Community (VLC) to utilize virtual microscope resources for Anatomy and Physiology courses for the 2 + 2 E-Learning Initiative.

Rationale for Contract: The V-Scope Explorer has been evaluated by NCCCS college instructors and System Office staff and selected as a viable product that can supplement and/or replace college level resources for anatomy and physiology courses.

The V-Scope Explorer: Anatomy and Physiology series provides a cost effective way for students to experience state-of-the-art microscopy focused on content to support courses in nursing, allied health, and higher level science programs. Students experience state-of-the-art microscopy by viewing images created with research quality microscopes and camera systems. This software engages students by providing the functionality of a real microscope and requires students to follow traditional laboratory process and protocol. This program can be accessed through the North Carolina Learning Object Repository (NCLOR). It is both web-deliverable and can be downloaded to college computers in classrooms and PC labs.

The State Board is asked to approve the purchase of a perpetual license for all NCCCS colleges for the one-time license fee of \$50,000. In subsequent years, a maintenance fee of \$12,500 will be charged by the vendor. This \$12,500, or 25% maintenance fee, includes software upgrades and additional and/or improved/enhanced images to be added to the basic product. The license is for unlimited use across the North Carolina Community College System and includes loading of V-Scope Explorer software and/or slides/images at PC labs at individual community colleges and web-accessibility to this program through the NCLOR, as well as free professional development workshops for faculty and staff at NCCCS colleges.

This licensing structure was preferred because charges are not transferred to students as is the case in most other pricing models for science support software or online resources.

S.L. 2005-276, Sec. 9.5, UNC-NCCCS 2+2 E-Learning Initiative provides funding to support online learning and teaching infrastructure. Completion of science courses in the form of interactive online sections is important to this initiative.

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 this first year contract of \$50,000 for 12 months beginning June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012. The five year total will cost \$100,000.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the FY 10-11 State General Fund appropriations for the 2+2 E-Learning Initiative.

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