STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Virtual Learning Community Course Development and Training
FY 2017-18

Request: The State Board is asked to approve the development of 10 online curriculum courses and faculty training by the Virtual Learning Community Quality and Assessment Center (VLC) at Surry Community College for an allocation up to $250,000.

Background: The Virtual Learning Community is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina Community College System to increase the quality and availability of online learning and support services for the benefit and success of distance learning students. When the VLC began in 1999, its sole purpose was to develop quality online courses that could be shared by colleges throughout the System. In 2006, the role of the VLC was expanded when VLC strategic objectives moved beyond course development to support all functions of distance learning across the state. Centers were created to support professional development, technology enhancement, and quality and assessment. The VLC Professional Development Center at Wake Technical Community College coordinates efforts to deliver the training opportunities necessary to deliver online courses and programs based on sound pedagogy and the latest technology tools. The VLC Technology Center at Fayetteville Technical Community College coordinates a vetting process for learning technologies to address the rapid changes in online course delivery. Course redesign, editing or content development, research, best practices or standards development, and needs assessment are coordinated by the Quality and Assessment Center at Surry Community College, as are any projects that may be funded through various grant resources or state appropriations. This center is tasked with the coordination of efforts by all three centers. For FY 2017-18, the State Board on April 21, 2017 (FC 4) approved an allocation to the Quality and Assessment Center in the amount of $415,000 consisting of $125,000 in operational costs and $290,000 for collaborative projects.

Rationale: The Virtual Learning Community made a strategic decision in 2013 to compare different processes and practices of online course and content development and to benchmark the VLC against other systems. The VLC Executive Board met with other agency representatives, such as Distance Education & Learning Technology Applications (DELTA) of NC State University and the NC Virtual Public School, as well as non-state providers of eLearning content, in an effort to gain insight as to how others develop content and what tools are used for interactivity. It was determined that the cost for development by external agencies or companies is far more than the VLC normally pays per course. These funds will provide development costs to the VLC for the following courses to be shared by all 58 colleges in the NCCCS: BUS 115, BUS 137, CJC 111, CTS 130, HEA 110, HUM 115, MED 121, MUS 110, OST 136, and PSY 241.

Contract Amount and Time Period: Surry Community College, VLC Quality and Assessment Center, will coordinate the course development and faculty training projects allocation of $250,000, for the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018 (FY 2017-18).

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is contingent upon FY 2017-18 State General Fund appropriations for the 2 + 2 E-Learning Initiative.

Contact:
James Parker
Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Technology Solutions and Distance Learning

Katherine Davis
Director of Distance Learning and Change Management
Portfolio and Change Management