

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

State Board Reserve Allocation – Study on the Feasibility of Developing a Program of Study Related to Oil and Natural Gas Drilling, Gathering, and Field Operations Industry

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$10,000 for a feasibility and desirability study of the development of programming that provides education and training for employment in the oil and natural gas drilling, gathering, and field operations industry. Central Carolina Community College (CCCC), located in a region with the potential for oil and gas exploration, development, and production, has agreed to lead this study, which will include evaluation of similar education programs in community college systems in other states.

Rationale: Per Section 24.(a) of S.L. 2014-4, the State Board of Community Colleges shall study the feasibility and desirability of developing a program to prepare students with a general education foundation and technical competencies for employment opportunities in the oil and natural gas drilling, gathering, and field operations industry, giving particular consideration to developing such a program at one or more of the community colleges located where the potential for shale gas resources is highest. The legislation also directs that research of potential programs shall include evaluation of similar education programs in community college systems in other states. The Triassic Basin, which includes counties in Central Carolina’s service area, is a region with the most likely potential for shale gas resources. CCCC has already performed some preliminary investigation of types of education and training that might be needed to support the targeted industry including a review of a number of positions such as roustabouts, floor hands, production technicians, field technicians, CDL drivers, welder’s helpers, heavy equipment operators, safety and inspection, and power generation maintenance. A more in-depth investigation of the industry and existing training in other states will clarify the need for new program development as well as for modification of existing programs to serve the industry as it develops in North Carolina. CCCC will lead this study in collaboration with other select colleges whose service areas are located in regions where there are potential shale gas resources.

Fund Source and Availability: FY 2014-15 funding is available from the State Board Reserve fund.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The \$10,000 allocation is for the period of October 1, 2014-June 30, 2015.

Contact:

Dr. Lisa Chapman
Senior Vice President for Academic Programs and Student Services