

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocations for FY2014-15 Early Childhood Education Innovation Fund

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$58,000 to be allocated to Blue Ridge Community College for the Early Childhood Education Innovation Fund for the period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 (pending approval of extension of the project, the allocation will be extended through November 30, 2015).

Background: The North Carolina Community College System seeks to improve Early Childhood Education (ECE) through the Early Childhood Education Innovation Fund (ECEIF), which was developed through the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant that was awarded to the State of North Carolina. The ECEIF was designed to provide opportunities for North Carolina community colleges to increase access to and the quality of ECE programs. Additionally, the development of strong literacy and language skills was encouraged. ECE has three important content areas as priorities for attention:

- Reducing barriers to learning;
- Strengthening the early foundations of lifelong learning; and
- Enhancing resources and capacities.

The project seeks to solicit proposals and initiate contact with individual community colleges to identify barriers to ECE student success, evaluate strategies to alleviate barriers, pilot the strategies, and disseminate the results to other colleges for replication. Each project will provide a clear detailed assessment of the project results which will ensure its validity. Currently, eight colleges are operating projects through the 2013-14 allocation.

Rationale: The project is expected to provide curriculum updates and professional development, statewide, for Early Childhood education faculty. This will enable them to more appropriately address the needs of the Early Childhood field.

Method of Allocation: Requests for proposals were sent to all community college presidents, chief academic officers, and ECE contacts. Two proposals were received. Staff from NCCCS, NCDPI, and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) read and evaluated each proposal on an individual basis and scored the application based on the following criteria: need for the project, significance of the project, quality of project design, quality of the project evaluation and adequacy of resources. After the initial reviews, consensus scores were reached and priority was given for documented partnership between multiple community colleges.

The application not recommended for funding scored lower than the recommended application. The recommended application addressed more fully the specifications in the request for proposals and included support and partnership from many community colleges.

College Recommended for Funding	Requested Amount	Amount of Award
Blue Ridge Community College	\$58,000	\$58,000
Total	\$58,000	\$58,000

College Not Recommended for Funding	Requested Amount	Amount of Award
Southeastern Community College	\$58,000	0
Total Requested	\$58,000	0

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the Race to the Top/Early Learning Challenge grant awarded by the NCDHHS, DCDEE.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: \$58,000 for the period October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 (pending approval of extension of the project, the allocation will be extended through November 30, 2015).

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