STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract for North Carolina Learning Object Repository (NCLOR)

Request: The State Board is asked to approve the third year of a three-year contract with eCollege.com (formerly Pearson-Equella) for maintenance and support, not to exceed $120,000 for the North Carolina Community College System Learning Object Repository (NCLOR).

Background: In July 2007, the State Board of Community Colleges approved a contract with The Learning Edge to establish the NCLOR. In 2010, Pearson, Inc., bought The Learning Edge, and changed the name to Pearson-Equella, and is now eCollege.com, which continues to partner with the NCCCS. Over the last six years, NCLOR has evolved into full production in accordance with the NCLOR implementation plan. We now have over 45,000 learning objects available to all faculty and instructional programs via Blackboard or Moodle learning management systems (LMS) across NCCCS.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) through Race to the Top funding partnered with NCCCS in 2012 to support the NCLOR. In August 2010, North Carolina was named as one of the winners of the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top grant. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) formed the NC Education Cloud Initiative. The NC Education Cloud is a $34.6 million shared services initiative designed to more efficiently and effectively deliver technology services to school districts in North Carolina. In March, 2011 the Education Cloud approached the NCCCS with a proposed partnership to expand the NCLOR to the local educational agencies of North Carolina, servicing 1.5 million K-12 students across North Carolina. DPI's Instructional Improvement System (HomeBase) now uses the NCLOR as its main repository for all learning resources. Also, DPI is funding an initiative to roll-out the NCLOR directly to the Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Five (5) LEAs are scheduled to join the NCCCS in a pilot of the NCLOR this year. These five LEAs will be used as models for the remaining LEAs who elect to join the NCLOR thereafter.

As a result of the partnership, NCCCS and DPI were able to procure the eCollege.com perpetual license for the Equella application software in the amount of $1,189,000 in year one of the three-year contract. Each agency was solely responsible for their share of the cost and NCCCS provided $189,000 towards the $1,189,000 first year cost for license, maintenance and support. Costs for year two and three are for application maintenance and support.

Rationale for Contract:
This NCLOR contract with eCollege.com provides the following Equella application software maintenance and support and professional services and training:

1. The cost of eCollege.com maintenance and support for year three of the agreement will be:
   • $250,000 (includes maintenance and support only)

DPI agrees to pay $150,000 and NCCCS agrees to pay $100,000 of the total cost of the maintenance and support.

2. eCollege.com professional/technical services, training, and travel will not exceed $20,000. This includes:

- Training sessions for administrators as required.

- Designing, testing, and implementing any updates to NCLOR as approved by the NCLOR staff. Some updates may be incorporated into the standard Equella software product (at no charge). Other changes deemed necessary by the operations committee and specific to NCLOR, will be managed as "custom software."

- Travel for eCollege.com staff not to exceed $2,500, based on the NCCCS out-of-state per diem rates.

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 Time & Amount: Total cost of the eCollege.com contract will not exceed $270,000, July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. The Department of Public Instruction agrees to pay $150,000 and NCCCS agrees to pay $120,000 of the total cost of the maintenance and support and professional/technical services.

Funding Availability: Funding is available from the FY 14-15 State General Fund appropriation.

Contact Persons:
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