Resolution to Support North Carolina’s Call to Action

WHEREAS, fifty-three years ago, North Carolina’s community colleges were started from the foundation of industrial education centers, and 79 percent of jobs required a high school diploma or less; and

WHEREAS, today, only 35 percent of jobs are available to those with a high school diploma or less; and

WHEREAS, 44 percent of businesses stated they had trouble filling at least one position, according to a 2014 survey of nearly 800 North Carolina employers conducted by the NC Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD); and

WHEREAS, the top three reasons cited for hiring difficulties were lack of work experience, credentials, and occupational skills; and

WHEREAS, interviews of more than 1,100 employers by local teams of education, economic development and workforce development professionals in the last 100 days of 2014 echoed the demand for skilled, experienced employees in hard-to-fill positions; and

WHEREAS, community colleges across the nation and the state struggle to fill classes in some high-demand technical fields; and

WHEREAS, establishing and sharing a common goal among education and workforce partners will promote an aligned, coordinated approach to meet this economic need; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Community Colleges adopted “Align4NCWorks” as the System’s strategic plan in May 2015 with the overarching goal of our state being a global leader in the number of students leaving its community college and university systems with a job-ready credential leading to successful employment; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Community Colleges is responsible for the policies that ensure quality educational programs throughout the System, which is designated by G.S. 115-D “as the primary lead agency for delivering workforce development training, adult literacy training and adult education programs in the State”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, the State Board supports the establishment of North Carolina’s goal of having 67 percent of working-aged North Carolinians with education and training beyond high school by 2025; and

THAT, in support of this goal, the State Board will continue to foster partnerships across the educational and workforce development spectrum that will promote the successful implementation of the goals, objectives and strategic actions included in “Align4NCWorks”;

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THAT, in support of this goal, the State Board will continue to implement, assess and evaluate the strategies of SuccessNC, the System’s strategic initiative from 2009-2013, which, with ongoing implementation and refining, focuses on student success; and

THAT, in support of this goal, the State Board will work with educational and workforce development partners to use data that will track progress toward North Carolina’s 67 percent goal, especially within working-aged adults between 25-64 years of age.

Signed on this 15th Day of January, 2016, in the City of Raleigh, on behalf of the State Board of Community Colleges,

[Signature]

Scott Shook
Chairman
State Board of Community Colleges