

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation NC Career Coach Program
FY 2020-21, FY 2121-22, and FY 2022-23

Request: The State Board is asked to approve allocations of \$1,438,146 for each fiscal year 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 for salary, benefits, and travel expenses of General Fund-supported Career Coaches. Recommendations are based on an established NC Career Coach advisory committee. Funding will be adjusted as appropriate for legislative salary and benefits rate increases.

Additionally, the State Board is asked to approve allocations of \$237,492 for fiscal years 2020-21 through 2026-27 for salary, benefits, and travel expenses of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) supported Career Coaches.

Background: The purpose of the NC Career Coach Program is to place community college career coaches in high schools to assist students with determining career goals and identifying community college programs that would enable students to achieve these goals.

The General Assembly appropriated funds to the North Carolina Community College System for the implementation of the NC Career Coach program. These funds shall only be used for salary, benefits, and travel expenses. The board of trustees of a community college and a local board of education of a local school administrative unit within the service area of the community college jointly apply for available funds for the NC Career Coach Program funding from the State Board of Community Colleges (See Table 1).

Effective July 1, 2019, Senate Bill 61 (Section 3.3) adjusted the matching formula (G.S. 115D-21.5(c)(2)b.) based on county tiers. Table 1 indicates the county tier ranking for each program based on the LEA county in which the coach will be serving.

The NC Community College System has also partnered with the University of North Carolina System Office on a new seven-year Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. As part of this grant, NCCCS will receive funding for seven years for three career coaches. Funding will support the full cost of the career coach, must serve specific counties selected by the UNC System Office for the GEAR UP grant, and must fund new career coaches so as to not supplant state funds. Table 2 shows the proposed allocation of these funds.

Rationale: G.S. 115D-21.5, as enacted in Section 10.14 of S.L. 2015-241 (H97), requires that an advisory committee, which shall include representatives from the NC Community College System, the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Commerce, and at least three representatives of the business community, review applications and make recommendations for funding awards to the State Board of Community Colleges.

The advisory committee reviewed applications submitted by 33 partnerships and recommend the awards based on the following criteria:

- Deployment plan for career coaches and strategy that supports effective outreach
- Evaluation Plan focusing on the outcome of increased enrollment in, and completion of, career pathways leading to marketable job skills and/or further education
- Economic Impact documented by local workforce needs, causes of unaddressed pipeline needs, and career coach model connection with potential pipeline with workforce needs
- Professional Development plan including engagement between high schools, community colleges, and community workforce
- Communication strategies, at a minimum, with high school students, high school and middle school faculty and staff, parents and guardians, and service area workforce partners

Table 1: General Fund Awards

College	Region	Tier Ranking	# NC Career Coaches	2020-21 Allocations	2021-22 Allocations	2022-23 Allocations
Asheville-Buncombe Tech	Western	Tier 2	1	52,776	52,776	52,776
Beaufort County – Hyde Co.	Eastern	Tier 1	1	79,164	79,164	79,164
Beaufort County – Tyrrell Co.	Eastern	Tier 1	1	79,164	79,164	79,164
Cape Fear	Eastern	Tier 3	1	39,582	39,582	39,582
Carteret	Eastern	Tier 2	2	105,552	105,552	105,552
Central Carolina	Central	Tier 2	1	52,776	52,776	52,776
Central Piedmont	Central	Tier 3	1	39,582	39,582	39,582
Davidson County – Davie Co.	Western	Tier 3	1	39,582	39,582	39,582
Davidson County – Davidson Co.	Western	Tier 2	1	52,776	52,776	52,776
James Sprunt	Eastern	Tier 1	1	79,164	79,164	79,164
Johnston	Central	Tier 3	2	79,164	79,164	79,164
Martin – Bertie Co.	Eastern	Tier 1	1	79,164	79,164	79,164
Martin – Martin Co.	Eastern	Tier 1	1	79,164	79,164	79,164
McDowell Tech	Western	Tier 2	1	52,776	52,776	52,776
Mitchell	Western	Tier 3	1	39,582	39,582	39,582
Rowan Cabarrus	Central	Tier 3	1	39,582	39,582	39,582
Sampson	Eastern	Tier 1	2	158,328	158,328	158,328
South Piedmont – Union Co.	Central	Tier 3	2	79,164	79,164	79,164
Wilkes	Western	Tier 2	4	211,104	211,104	211,104
Total			26	\$1,438,146	\$1,438,146	\$1,438,146

Table 2: GEAR UP Awards

College	Region	Tier Ranking	# NC Career Coaches	2020-27 Fiscal Year Allocation
Beaufort County – Washington Co.	Eastern	Tier 1	1	79,164
South Piedmont – Anson Co.	Central	Tier 1	1	79,164
Southwestern	Western	Tier 1	1	79,164
Total			3	\$ 237,492

Fund Source and Availability:

General Fund: FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22, and FY 2022-2023 allocations are contingent upon approval of State General Fund appropriation and adjusted by any legislative action.

GEAR UP: Funds have been granted for seven years from the U.S. Department of Education through a partnership with the University of North Carolina System Office.

Contact:

Jennifer McLean
Associate Director, Student Support Services