

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Career and Technical Education Improvements Through Enhanced Career Pathways
FY 2017-18

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$468,000 in Perkins Career and Technical Education Funds to support the improvement of existing Grades 9-14 Career and Technical Education Pathways.

Background: In 2012, NC selected two regions to pilot implementation of regional pathways following the model set forth by Jobs for the Future (JFF) based on the Pathways to Prosperity principles. In 2013, the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) awarded small grants to each Local Education Agency (LEA) to begin the process of developing Career Pathways. In 2014, the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) in collaboration with DPI and the NC Department of Commerce (Commerce) released a two-year competitive proposal to set up Career Pathways between high schools and community colleges. Twenty colleges were funded in partnership with high schools and workforce boards. In 2015, the NC Works Commission began the task of Certifying Career Pathways. The Commission adopted the following criteria for high quality career pathways and established a process to certify pathways throughout the state:

- demand-driven and data-informed paths
- employer engagement
- collaboration
- articulation and coordination
- work-based learning
- multiple entry and exit points including industry-recognized credentials
- career awareness and comprehensive career advising and support services
- methods of evaluating pathway success.

In 2015, DPI began work on a Career Readiness Initiative sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Two of the objectives of the CCSSO initiative are focused on career pathways: creating high quality pathways and scaling pathways for ALL students. These objectives supported DPI's existing focus on pathways including the requirement that every LEA develop at least three pathways. In 2016 NCCCS placed increased emphasis on pathways requiring all colleges to submit curriculum map for three career pathways between high school and community colleges, further encouraging the collaboration between high schools and community colleges and building on the statewide High School to Community College Articulation Agreement and Career and College Promise program.

Rationale: The purpose of this RFP is to improve implementation of existing pathways and to increase positive outcomes through investment in promising practices. Funds awarded through this process will be leveraged with existing resources to enhance current systems. Funds will be targeted to activities directly aligned with pathway outcomes.

The Perkins Act allows the state to sanction and incentivize based on performance. Following is an excerpt from the legislation that details the performance that may be considered for incentive funding.

Attachment FC 11

Sec (124)(c) (10) (A) for exemplary performance in carrying out programs under this Act, which awards shall be based on— ... (ii) eligible recipients effectively developing connections between secondary education and postsecondary education and training; (iii) the adoption and integration of coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and technical coursework; (iv) eligible recipients' progress in having special populations who participate in career and technical education programs meet local adjusted levels of performance:...

Colleges Recommended for Funding	Amount
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College	\$49,000
Beaufort County Community College	\$19,000
Blue Ridge Community College	\$25,000
Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute	\$25,000
Carteret Community College	\$25,000
Catawba Valley Community College	\$25,000
Fayetteville Technical Community College	\$25,000
Isothermal Community College	\$25,000
James Sprunt Community College	\$25,000
Lenoir Community College	\$25,000
Nash Community College	\$25,000
Randolph Community College	\$25,000
Roanoke-Chowan Community College	\$25,000
Rockingham Community College	\$25,000
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	\$25,000
Southeastern Community College	\$25,000
Surry Community College (Mount Airy & Elkin)	\$25,000
Wilkes Community College	\$25,000
Total	\$468,000

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the Carl D. Perkins, Career and Technical Education Grant.

Time Period: The allocation period is July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Contact Person(s):

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