

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Service Agreement for NC Community Colleges Cloud Ready Campus Initiative
FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, and FY 2021-22

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve a three-year service agreement not to exceed \$480,000 with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University (NCSU) for support in the development and implementation of a North Carolina Community Colleges Cloud Ready Campus Program.

Strategic Plan Reference:

Theme: System Effectiveness

Goal: Advance organizational effectiveness, operations, and decision making to support a cohesive system of nimble, empowered, and community driven colleges.

- Objective 4.1: Ensure colleges and the System have access to technology and related infrastructure to meet student and institutional needs.
 - Strategy 4.1.1. Implement a sustainable, system-wide enterprise resources planning (ERP) solution that enables more consistent and efficient operations.
 - Strategy 4.1.2. Sustain the current ERP infrastructure to prepare for transition to a modernized ERP.

Background: Community College Network Information Technology (IT) infrastructure – specifically network infrastructure beyond the MCNC internet access point for each of the 58 main campuses -- at many of our North Carolina Community Colleges does not meet current or future college administrative and student instructional needs. Challenges arise from differences in the extent to which colleges have developed and applied technology governance, inadequate technology and staff budgets, coupled with the inability to attract and retain personnel within the college’s service area who have the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities. The NCCCS has received an appropriation to begin addressing some of the greatest technology infrastructure challenges faced by our colleges and is focused on doing so in a way that reflects the need for equitability, sustainability, and maximum benefit from investment.

Rationale for Contract: The North Carolina Community College System Office seeks to ensure every community college meets standards for connectivity and basic cybersecurity in order to provide each student with equitable, cost-effective, reliable and secure internet access while on campus. Additionally, the System Office seeks to ensure business critical systems can be modernized to cloud-based platforms in a secure, scalable architecture.

The request supports the execution of approximately \$5.5 million in State funds appropriated to the System Office for the purpose of enhancing and enabling rural community college broadband access and cloud readiness. Program development will include data collection about current infrastructure as well as a needs assessment in areas including college WAN, campus LAN and Wi-Fi, cyber security and business systems.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, there is no requirement for approval by outside purchasing authorities. This service agreement is between the System Office and NCSU, a state higher education institution.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The proposed contract period is from date of execution (expected February 21, 2020) through June 30, 2022, for a total cost not to exceed \$480,000.

Fund Source & Availability: Funding is available from the FY 2019-20 State General Fund appropriation for Workforce Development Focused IT and ERP and remains available until this IT project and program has been fully implemented.

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