

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Build Back Better Regional Challenge
NC BioBetter Grant Project
FY 2022-23

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve an allocation of \$16,422,220 to ten colleges and the system office to meet the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant award to the NC Community College System.

Strategic Plan Reference:

Objective 4.1: Cultivate a robust pipeline of highly skilled workers that meets the needs of employers and helps grow the economies of all prosperity zones.

Background: The NC Community College System (NCCCS) and ten community colleges heavily involved in biotechnology and life sciences industry training participated in a Joint North Carolina response to US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better grant solicitation. The initial grant submission, 'Accelerating Life Sciences Manufacturing to Create Economic Resilience and Promote Equity in Distressed Communities,' included submissions from seven other partners. However, only three of the seven partner organizations were awarded including a total of \$16,422,220 million to the NC Community College System. The NC Biotechnology Center, which received one of the three awards, is acting as the state's grant convener bringing together the leads of the three funded organizations.

The colleges' award (\$15,007,187) will be utilized to expand capacity for industry training at each college through the purchase of equipment, development of new curriculum, and hiring of industry trainers. Additionally, each college will hire equity navigators who will assist in recruiting Latino students. The colleges will also undergo extensive cultural proficiency training.

The grant will focus on five key milestones and deliverables. Each of the participating colleges will be involved with these milestones and deliverables which include:

Key Milestones:

- 1) demonstrate equitable outcomes (underserved and Latino student enrollment, employment),
- 2) build capacity in training labs,
- 3) improve curriculum with virtual learning components,
- 4) increase trained faculty (recruitment, training, retention) and
- 5) improve workforce, education and employer connections.

Key Deliverables:

- 1) provide industry-recommended training equipment/supplies in labs,
- 2) increase enrollment and completions,
- 3) increase the number of trained faculty,
- 4) increase short-term training modules and virtual training components, and
- 5) increase the percentage of minority enrollees, especially Hispanic/Latino students.

A portion of the award (\$1,415,033) will be managed by the system office’s Economic Development Division and BioNetwork. The grant funding is vital in supporting the NC economy through training and education programs that have consistently produced a steady stream of qualified biotechnology workers and high-quality training for new processes and technologies. Grant funding will fund four (time limited) positions at the system office. Funding will also support vendor-led equity and cultural proficiency training, Latino student recruiting, travel, and training costs at the Biomanufacturing Education and Training Center at NC State University.

Rationale: The bioscience sector continues to flourish and demonstrate relative immunity to fluctuations in NC’s economy. Since the start of 2020, seventy-three (73) life sciences companies have announced plans to either locate or expand their operations in our state, creating nearly 11,200 new jobs and over \$8.39 Billion in investment (NC Biotechnology Center Data). To keep up with this robust industry growth and to help sustain the growth, NC Community Colleges and BioNetwork require an infusion of funds to enhance and update biotechnology and life sciences industry training facilities, recruit industry trainers, recruit students from excluded populations, and to update and enhance curriculum.

The ten colleges were selected based upon the existing and expanding biotechnology and life sciences industry in their service areas. Most of the state’s life science industry resides in the greater Research Triangle Park area. Additionally, there are growing clusters in Forsyth, Pitt, and Caldwell counties.

Method of Allocation: The award from the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) outlines the projected budget amounts over the next three years for the participating colleges. Each college will be required to submit reports on the status of their efforts (due March 10 and September 10th of each year of the grant). Colleges are required to adhere to approved budgets and any changes to line items or adjustments must be first approved by the system office lead (AVP Meyer). Unexpended funds from year 1 and 2 will be available for carryforward into following year. All funds must be expended per EDA guidelines by the end period.

Community College	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Alamance (ACC)	\$1,128,137	\$573,507	\$305,236	\$2,006,880
Central Carolina (CCCC)	\$460,854	\$460,854	\$460,854	\$1,382,562
Caldwell & TI (CCCTI)	\$434,625	\$271,370	\$277,488	\$983,483
Durham Technical (DTCC)	\$460,960	\$460,960	\$460,901	\$1,382,821
Forsyth Technical (FTCC)	\$570,550	\$570,550	\$570,550	\$1,711,650
Johnston (JCC)	\$485,536	\$485,536	\$485,537	\$1,456,609
Pitt (PCC)	\$357,750	\$371,370	\$277,488	\$1,006,608
Vance-Granville (VGCC)	\$898,506	\$521,371	\$338,314	\$1,758,191
Wake Technical (WTCC)	\$872,194	\$872,130	\$872,131	\$2,616,455
Wilson (WCC)	\$233,976	\$233,976	\$233,976	\$701,928
System Office	\$477,528	\$469,476	\$468,029	\$1,415,033
Grand Total	\$6,380,616	\$5,291,100	\$4,750,504	\$16,422,220

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The total allocation of \$16,422,220 is for the period of December 2, 2022 through June 15, 2025.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding source is the Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant from the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). Availability of funding is contingent upon the US Department of Commerce EDA approval of eligibility of the subrecipients (10 community colleges). Actions are subject to the approval of OSBM and consultation with the NC General Assembly's Commission of Governmental Operations (per G.S. 120-76.1). The funding period of the grant award letter is September 2, 2022 - January 1, 2026.

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