

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Scholarship
August 24, 2020 – September 30, 2022

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the allocation of \$15,000,000 from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund with \$14,549,996 for scholarships for eligible community college students pursuing high-demand workforce training programs within ten workforce pathways leading to a State or industry-recognized credential and \$450,004 for communication/program success. Colleges would have local flexibility to add additional pathways to meet local workforce needs.

Strategic Plan Reference:

Theme: Student Interest and Access

Goal #1: Increase the percentage of North Carolinians, particularly within underserved populations, pursuing and easily accessing education or training through North Carolina community colleges.

- Objective 1.3. Identify and reduce access barriers for all prospective students, particularly among underserved populations.
 - Strategy 1.3.1. Improve and augment existing financial assistance programs and services to better assist students with educational costs, particularly costs beyond tuition and fees (e.g., books, transportation, child care, etc.).

Background: Under the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund), the U.S. Department of Education awards grants to Governors for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Each Governor will have one year, from the date of the State’s award, to award funds. Any funds not awarded by the Governor within one year of receiving the State’s award will be returned to the Department for reallocation. In accordance with the “Certification and Agreement for Funding under the Education Stabilization Fund Program Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund” (CFDA Numbers: 84.425C), the Governor of NC established the GEER Scholarships for NC Community College students.

Rationale: The before mentioned “Certification Agreement for Funding” allows for emergency support through grants to Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution and any other IHE that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students, the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

In order to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolina must have a well-trained workforce in critical high-demand fields. Furthermore, many North Carolinians have been laid off from service sector jobs and may want to move to more stable, better paying careers. In fact, the Strada Center for Consumer Insights noted that 59% of adults considering enrolling in

an education or training program in the next six months prefer nondegree programs.¹ Community colleges will be key to North Carolina's economic recovery as we upskill, reskill, and graduate our workforce. However, unlike traditional academic programs of study, federal and State financial aid is unavailable for these programs. The NCCCS submitted a proposal to the Office of the Governor for GEER Funds to establish this new scholarship program to meet this need of the NCCCS and the State of North Carolina.

The Governor awarded \$15,000,000 to the NC Community College System (NCCCS) for eligible community college students pursuing high-demand workforce training programs within ten workforce pathways leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. The scholarship awards will be determined by each college based on student need, local industry needs, number of eligible students, and cost of course, up to a maximum award of either \$750 per course or the cost of the course fee(s) if the fee(s) exceed \$750. The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare and other components of the total cost of attendance for August 24, 2020 through September 30, 2022. Eligible students applying for this scholarship must be:

1. Resident of North Carolina
2. Students enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses offered for 96 hours or more and leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses.
3. Students applying for the scholarship must be enrolled in one of the following ten programs of study:
 - Automotive
 - Aircraft Maintenance
 - Construction
 - Criminal Justice
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Healthcare
 - Industrial/Manufacturing
 - Information Technology
 - Transportation
 - Fire and Rescue Services

NOTE: Colleges would have local flexibility to add additional Pathways to meet local workforce needs.

Each college allocation is based on the college's Budget Full-Time Equivalency (BFTE) weighted by each funding Tier as presented in Table 1. Further, to assist college communication efforts regarding these new scholarship funds to improve student access to education meeting local industry needs, \$450,004 is designated for Communication/Program Success. These funds will be divided into eight economic development regions with one college from each region selected as the lead college as determined by the System President.

¹ <https://www.stradaeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Public-Viewpoint-Report-Week-5.pdf>

Table 1: College Allocations

College	Weighted by Tier Continuing Education 2020-21 BFTE	GEER Scholarship Allocation
Alamance CC	579.6	\$ 246,584
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	678.5	\$ 288,660
Beaufort County CC	332.7	\$ 141,543
Bladen CC	218.6	\$ 93,001
Blue Ridge CC	504.0	\$ 214,421
Brunswick CC	357.0	\$ 151,882
Caldwell CC and TI	809.5	\$ 344,393
Cape Fear CC	769.2	\$ 327,247
Carteret CC	307.5	\$ 130,822
Catawba Valley CC	607.9	\$ 258,624
Central Carolina CC	642.9	\$ 273,514
Central Piedmont CC	652.4	\$ 277,556
Cleveland CC	878.9	\$ 373,918
Coastal Carolina CC	590.1	\$ 251,051
College of the Albemarle	381.5	\$ 162,305
Craven CC	519.4	\$ 220,973
Davidson County CC	362.5	\$ 154,221
Durham TCC	561.5	\$ 238,884
Edgecombe CC	321.8	\$ 136,906
Fayetteville TCC	3,710.9	\$ 1,578,760
Forsyth TCC	742.8	\$ 316,016
Gaston College	414.1	\$ 176,174
Guilford TCC	997.3	\$ 424,290
Halifax CC	224.2	\$ 95,383
Haywood CC	233.1	\$ 99,170
Isothermal CC	213.3	\$ 90,746
James Sprunt CC	257.2	\$ 109,423
Johnston CC	656.4	\$ 279,258
Lenoir CC	2,010.7	\$ 855,429
Martin CC	133.2	\$ 56,668
Mayland CC	396.9	\$ 168,857
McDowell TCC	187.7	\$ 79,855
Mitchell CC	318.0	\$ 135,289
Montgomery CC	171.0	\$ 72,750
Nash CC	496.9	\$ 211,400
Pamlico CC	82.0	\$ 34,886
Piedmont CC	493.7	\$ 210,039
Pitt CC	656.5	\$ 279,300
Randolph CC	430.8	\$ 183,279

Richmond CC	578.3	\$ 246,031
Roanoke Chowan CC	193.0	\$ 82,110
Robeson CC	927.7	\$ 394,679
Rockingham CC	253.0	\$ 107,636
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	1,135.0	\$ 482,873
Sampson CC	407.9	\$ 173,536
Sandhills CC	490.0	\$ 208,465
South Piedmont CC	748.7	\$ 318,526
Southeastern CC	485.6	\$ 206,593
Southwestern CC	481.8	\$ 204,976
Stanly CC	632.9	\$ 269,260
Surry CC	534.8	\$ 227,525
Tri-County CC	181.7	\$ 77,302
Vance-Granville CC	441.9	\$ 188,001
Wake TCC	2,312.0	\$ 983,614
Wayne CC	478.3	\$ 203,487
Western Piedmont CC	267.0	\$ 113,592
Wilkes CC	462.3	\$ 196,680
Wilson CC	285.9	\$ 121,633
Total FTE	34,200.0	\$ 14,549,996
Funds for Communication/Program Success		\$ 450,004
	TOTAL GEER AWARD	\$ 15,000,000

Time Period: August 24, 2020 through September 30, 2022.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund) as authorized by Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136 and awarded to North Carolina Office of the Governor by the U.S. Department of Education. These funds are contingent upon certification and transfer by the Office of State Budget and Management.

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