STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for NC Space Grant Undergraduate Student Research
FY 2018-19

Request: The State Board is asked to approve $20,000 to be allocated to four NC Community Colleges from the North Carolina Space Grant.

Strategic Plan References:
Theme: Student Interest and Access
Goal #2: Provide a continuum of education, training, advising, and support to help learners make informed decisions that lead to credentials and careers.

- Objective 2.1: Provide timely and accurate career exploration and academic planning opportunities.
  - Strategy 2.1.1: Integrate career exploration and employer outreach for all audiences from the moment they engage.

Background: The North Carolina Space Grant (NC Space Grant) is a consortium of universities, industries, government agencies, and non-profit organizations committed to addressing the Nation’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce development needs. The NC Community College System Office as an affiliate institution of the State’s NC Space Grant is funded through NASA’s education directorate to provide funding for community colleges to support Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. This funding supports undergraduate student research at Wake Technical Community College (WTCC), Carteret Community College (CCC), Davidson County Community College (DCCC) and Edgecombe Community College (ECC). This two-semester activity culminates in the students’ presenting their research findings in April. Past projects included student research into cancer rates in Person County and novel designs for high altitude balloon payloads.

Rationale: Community college undergraduate student research addresses NASA’s goals (and NC Space Grant’s mission) to enhance and better promote STEM in NC. The four community colleges were selected based upon previous experience successfully supporting undergraduate research in a community college setting. Additionally, the colleges have identified projects that are in alignment with NASA’s education goals. WTCC plans to investigate the barriers to STEM enrollment encountered by Hispanic/Latino students. CCC will be utilizing their location on the coast and expertise in information technology to explore underwater mapping. DCCC will explore the use of essential oils and parasitoid wasps as bio-control agents against cowpea weevils (Callosobruchus maculatus). ECC will be expanding upon their project from last year investigating novel payload designs for high altitude balloons.

Method of Allocation: The colleges will be allocated funds as shown below. The difference in the amounts reflects differences in the scope and breadth of the projects identified by each college.
Community College | Funding Award
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Edgecombe CC | $3,625
Wake Tech CC | $6,375
Davidson County CC | $4,000
Carteret CC | $6,000
**TOTAL** | **$20,000**

**Allocation Amount and Time Period:** The allocation of funding is for the period of September 21, 2018 through March 15, 2019.

**Fund Source and Availability:** These funds are available through the North Carolina Space Grant.

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