

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
2014-15 Budget Priorities**

Community colleges are essential to North Carolina's economic recovery:

- Community colleges put taxpayers back to work in better careers.
- Community colleges are closing the skills gap for employers, creating opportunities for job creation and retention.
- Community colleges are a great value, saving money for North Carolina families.

In order to meet the needs of North Carolina's taxpayers, employers, and families, the General Assembly needs to commit to investing in community colleges to ensure we can provide:

- Innovative, workforce-relevant courses and programs taught by qualified, experienced faculty.
- High quality college transfer programs that cost-effectively advance students towards four-year degrees.
- Improved and expanded student support services through a combination of technology and dedicated, skilled staff.

The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to endorse and promote the reinvestment of approximately \$32 million currently in our System's FY 2013-14 budget (\$13.2 million associated with our anticipated enrollment adjustment¹ and \$18.8 million in non-recurring funds) into the following priorities for FY 2014-15:

- **Closing the Skills Gap - \$16.2 million:** Recommend reinvesting funds to support the development of a fourth funding tier that would target additional resources towards instruction that prepares students for immediate employment. Funds would support curriculum instruction leading to higher paying jobs in health sciences, engineering, construction, manufacturing, transportation, and biotechnology fields. Increased funding would also be provided to workforce continuing education courses leading to industry credentials in these areas.
- **Increasing Quality - \$15.8 million:** Recommend reinvesting funds to support improvements in the quality of instruction and student support by increasing all funding tier levels. These funds would enable colleges to determine local solutions for improving student success.

Faculty and Staff Salaries: Highly-trained, experienced, and dedicated employees are key to student success. Yet community college faculty and staff continue to be paid significantly less than national averages. North Carolina's average faculty salary ranks 11th of our 16 states in the Southeast Regional Education Board (SREB) region and 41st nationally. The public two-year college average faculty salary for the nation and the SREB region are 30% and 10% greater, respectively, than the North Carolina average. **The General Assembly should appropriate funds to support all educators in North Carolina being paid a salary that reflects the value they provide to the State.**

¹ The enrollment adjustment estimate will be revised as additional enrollment data is reported by the colleges.