

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Allocation for Finish First

FY 2018-19

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$554,046 to be allocated to Wake Technical Community College (WTCC) for the Finish First tool.

Strategic Plan Reference:

Theme: Clear & Supported Pathways for Student Progress and Success

Goal 2: Provide a continuum of education, training, advising, and support to help learners make informed decisions that lead to credentials and careers.

- Objective 2.3: Increase completion of credentials for successful transition to careers and/or further education.
 - Strategy 2.3.3: Validate students' prior learning and experience to minimize student costs and the time it takes to complete their educational goals

Background: The North Carolina Community College System applied and received funding from the John M. Belk Endowment to fund the implantation of a technology tool developed by Wake Technical Community College (Wake Tech), called Finish First. The tool scans students' transcripts against every program offered at a specific college to identify credentials the students may be eligible to earn, or, are short by a few credits. The tool uses processing power to match hundreds of possible credentials against thousands of student transcripts in a matter of hours as compared the thousands of man hours the process would require completing. The tool has the potential to improve completion rates as students are matched to potential credentials which they may not have known they were close to completing or did not know they possessed enough credits to receive.

Rationale: WTCC has piloted Finish First at 11 colleges and has demonstrated its potential by identifying over 30,000 students who are eligible to receive or lack a few credits to receive a credential at WTCC, alone. Similar results have been demonstrated at Lenoir CC, Cape Fear CC, and other community colleges. Additionally, the system office partnered with the UNC System Office on a grant that was awarded jointly to the two systems from the Lumina Foundation. The grant will award an additional \$200,000 to WTCC to further develop the Finish First tool and to connect the students identified by the tool to Governor Cooper's Finish Line grants to help students finish and receive a credential.

Method of Allocation: The John M. Belk Endowment has identified the following distribution of funds schedule:

December 2018: \$48,129

December 2019: \$249,619

December 2020: \$256,298

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation of funding is for the period of December 18, 2018, through June 15, 2021.

Fund Source and Availability: These funds are available through the grant from John M. Belk Endowment grant award.

Contact Person:

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