

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Allocation for North Carolina Space Grant**  
**FY 2017-18**

**Request:** The State Board is asked to approve \$7,300 to be allocated to two NC Community Colleges (Edgecombe Community College and Piedmont Community College) from the North Carolina Space Grant funds.

**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 has been participating in and allocating the funds for this program since FY 2010-11. This year, the funding will support two colleges supporting undergraduate student research in a STEM field. This two-semester activity culminates in a final peer-reviewed research paper. Conducting research has many benefits to the student including a deeper understanding of the topic, developing problem solving skills, and learning the scientific method for conducting research.

**Rationale:** The NC Space Grant, in partnership with NASA, advocates for STEM Career Pathway development for students at Universities and Community Colleges. As an affiliate, the NC Community College System developed a plan to expend funds received from the program, which includes providing up to \$7,300 in funding for the undergraduate student research. Student research addresses NASA's goals to enhance and better promote STEM Career Pathways in NC. The two colleges were selected through a Request For Proposal (RFP) process that resulted in just two submissions; however, both proposals were exceptional.

**Method of Allocation:** Edgecombe Community College will be allocated \$3,000 in support of one student. Piedmont Community College will be allocated \$4,300 in support of two students.

**Allocation Amount and Time Period:** The allocation of funding is for the period of October 20, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

**Fund Source and Availability:** These funds are available through the NC Space Grant Affiliate Program.

**Contact Person:**

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