STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract for Migration and Support of College Information System (CIS) in the Cloud
FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve an amount not to exceed $3,610,000 to continue the assistance and ongoing support related to the migration of the College Information System (CIS) into the cloud using the current 3-year Managed Services contract. The period for performance will run from August 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, with two one-year options to renew.

Strategic Plan Reference(s):
Theme: System Effectiveness
Goal 4: To advance organizational effectiveness, operations, and decision-making in order to support a cohesive system of nimble, empowered and community-driven colleges.
  • Objective 4.1: Ensure that colleges within the System have access to technology and related infrastructure in order to meet student and institutional needs.

Background: Since the inception of the CIS, or the current Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution, each community college campus must maintain a data center to support CIS services. In some parts of the state, it is difficult to recruit and maintain staff to support this complex system. The Managed Services contract was established to provide comprehensive expertise in the areas of CIS administration of the Ellucian Colleague® application, database, underlying database application services, operating systems, and security support for the CIS through selected vendors, Ferrilli and CampusWorks, Inc.

Additionally, events that impact student access to the CIS, such as damage to electrical power, broadband access, or natural disasters, have meant interruption to services for our students. The Migration in the Cloud initiative started taking advantage of commonly available Cloud service providers, including Amazon Web Services (AWS). The System Office has utilized the Managed Services contract since August 2020 to engage Ferrilli to provide services. The current Ferrilli engagement expires at the end of this month. Ferrilli has been a strong partner in helping us migrate 24 of the 29 colleges that have migrated their CIS infrastructure to AWS. Ferrilli also brings the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) in the Ellucian ERP platforms which the NCCCS lacks. These KSAs are critical to both the ongoing maintenance support as well as enabling our transition to a modernized ERP platform (post-Colleague).

Rationale: Leveraging the Managed Services contract to expedite the Cloud migration initiative as a risk-mitigation and ERP strategy supports our preparedness to ensure student access to services even after events such as hurricanes, floods, and pandemics. Ferrilli has partnered with System Office staff to augment System Office support of the migration of CIS systems to the Cloud, and support for the colleges that need assistance to sustain their CIS infrastructure in the Cloud. This request allows us to align with the current contract to leverage discounted pricing for multiple years. (NCCCS has incurred a cost of $1,465,000 for 5 Senior Advisors for a period of eleven (11)

months.) The proposed contract will reference an MOU between the System Office and Ferrilli addressing Ferrilli's agreement to engage community college students and/or graduates with the needed KSAs, when possible. The Table below outlines the cost per year.

Year	Cost
Year 1	$1,430,000
Year 2	$1,430,000
Year 3	$750,000
	$3,610,000

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practices of the State of North Carolina, this request does not require approval by NC outside procurement agencies.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The contract period is August 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, with two additional one-year options to renew, for an amount not to exceed $3,610,000.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from the Information technology (IT) project budget code 26802, which holds a cash balance used for replacing, modernizing, or upgrading the existing CIS.

Contact(s):
Jim Parker
Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer