

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Forsyth Technical Community College Request for Off-Campus Center Approval

Request: Forsyth Technical Community College (Forsyth Tech) requests that the State Board designate the new Stokes County location as a off-campus center (OCC). This site is located at 1165 Dodgetown Road in Walnut Cove, North Carolina.

Background: Per G.S. 115D-5(a), the State Board is responsible for approving all community college sites. An off-campus center is a site that functions as a convenience location to provide appropriate population and geographic access to college programs. Students may complete certificates or diplomas at centers, but due to the level of support services such as libraries, student development services, etc., students would not normally be able to complete the associate degree at an off-campus center.

S.L. 2011-145 appropriated \$250,000 (non-recurring) to Forsyth Tech specifically to help support the building and equipping of a college site in Stokes County, which is part of the Forsyth Tech's service area. These funds were transferred to a non-reverting capital improvement (CI) budget code (41120), where they remained until such time that Forsyth Tech and Stokes County had established a path forward to establish the site. The funds were used for necessary infrastructure improvements to the site, which is located on property (approximately 5 acres) that was leased by the Forsyth Technical Community College Board of Trustees for 40 years.

Subsequently, Stokes County appropriated \$6 million to support the design and construction on a 20,000 square foot educational building on the property. The State Board approved Project #1904 on January 18, 2013, and the building is scheduled to open in December 2016. Stokes County has also appropriated \$22,449 for FY 2016-17 to support the operational costs associated with the new facility.

Forsyth Tech plans both curriculum and non-credit programming at its Stokes County Center. Curriculum programs will include Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree programs and Practical Nursing diploma program. Non-credit programs include EMT, Computer and other customized training, CNA, and agricultural seminars and classes.

Rationale and Recommendation: Based on the 2011 legislation indicating an intent to establish a Stokes County site and the information above, the System Office recommends approval of OCC designation with the condition that Forsyth Tech submit a copy of the cover letter accompanying the prospectus report submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to the System Office Chief Financial Officer upon availability.

Contact:

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