

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Sub-Orbital Student Competition
FY 2017-18

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$19,000 to be allocated to six North Carolina Community Colleges from the North Carolina Space Grant Affiliate budget.

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 North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) Office, as an affiliate institution of the State's NC Space Grant, is supporting a high-altitude balloon payload student-design competition for the fourth year. This year the funding will go to support the six colleges participating in the competition. This two-semester activity culminates in a final balloon launch and retrieval during the North Carolina Science Festival in April. Teams design, build, test, and launch payloads attached to near space weather balloons and retrieve the payloads that gently return to the ground with parachutes once the balloon pops in the upper atmosphere. The payloads collect data and take photos from heights as far up as 100,000 feet.

Rationale: This competition between the community colleges addresses NASA's goals (and NC Space Grant's mission) to enhance and better promote STEM Career Pathways in NC.

Method of Allocation: The five community colleges who participated in 2016-17 will each be allocated \$3,000. The new participating college (Wake Technical Community College) will be allocated \$4,000 (additional funds required for start-up). The total allocation is \$19,000 and will cover the cost of supplies and small parts for the payload, helium for prototype tests, and travel for retrieval of the payload post-launch.

Community College	Funding Award
Catawba Valley	\$ 3,000
Durham Technical	\$ 3,000
Pitt	\$ 3,000
Rowan-Cabarrus	\$ 3,000
Edgecombe	\$ 3,000
Wake Technical	\$ 4,000
TOTAL	\$ 19,000

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation of funding is for the period of November 18, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Fund Source and Availability: These funds are available through the North Carolina Space Grant Affiliate program for the period July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.

Contact Person:

Matthew Meyer
Associate Vice President, Educational Innovations