

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Contract for Ellucian CIS Sizing and Costing Project**

**Request:** The State Board is asked to approve an amendment to the Ellucian contract to perform required work to support the CIS Community College Sizing and Costing project for five community colleges. The purpose of the project is to more accurately identify expected costs to successfully migrate the community colleges' current IBM Unidata platform to a Microsoft SQL platform both on-premises and hosted at Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) at a cost not to exceed \$958,320.

**Background:** Since March 2008, the College Information System (CIS) Template, which is based on Ellucian's Colleague Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, has been in ongoing maintenance and operations and utilized by the 58 NC community colleges to support college administrative and educational functions.

During Release 18 of Colleague (March 2008), the System Office decided not to migrate from IBM's Unidata platform to Microsoft's SQL platform because the migration did not meet NC Community College System business requirements at the time. Since that time, the maintenance cost of the Unidata platform has increased, the skilled resource availability to support the platform is limited at the community colleges, and 56% of Ellucian's customers have already migrated to a SQL platform. Although Ellucian has not established an end of life for the support of the Unidata platform for its Colleague software, the NCCCSO must prepare for the platform migration for all 58 community colleges and the System Office. The community colleges' business needs also support a migration to the new platform.

At the January 2013 State Board meeting, the State Board approved Attachment FC 6 – Contract for Ellucian SQL Migration Study for \$931,000. While the State Board provided the System Office with consent to engage with Ellucian to perform an assessment of the 58 NC community colleges and the System Office's hardware and skill resource considerations required to advance to a Microsoft environment, project advancement was contingent upon obtaining approval from the State IT Procurement Office. The State IT Procurement Office did not approve the suggested approach. OITS required a review of hosting for the 58 community colleges as a requirement for the approval of the platform migration to SQL. After 23 months of collaboration, the System Office in conjunction with the Office of the State Chief Information Officer have reached consensus on a different approach.

This approach includes a prioritized modernization of the NCCCS CIS Template. Ellucian will collaborate with the System Office, OITS, and a third party vendor to support the work effort associated with the project that revolves around that which Ellucian has proprietary ownership. Ellucian is the only higher education vendor that can perform the required migration analysis work associated with their product suite and is the sole developer of the NCCCS CIS Release System based on proprietary software required to support the 58 community colleges that will be rewritten when the NCCCS migrates to SQL.

**Rationale for Contract Amendment:** It is the goal of the System Office to secure Ellucian services to determine costs for the migration of 58 community colleges to a Microsoft platform

and to develop a comprehensive analysis of five community colleges to more accurately identify expected costs for hosting both on-premises and at OITS which will aid in the planning for future migration and hosting projects.

The five NC community colleges that will participate in the sizing and costing evaluations are:

1. Surry Community College
2. Catawba Valley Community College
3. Fayetteville Technical Community College
4. Central Piedmont Community College
5. James Sprunt Community College

The cost for the assessment and sizing for the Platform Migration to SQL is \$931,100 as previously approved by the State Board in January 2013. An additional cost of \$27,220 is for the purpose of completing the assessment and sizing for hosting the five colleges at OITS.

**Method of Procurement:** In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval of the contract amendment by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State IT Procurement Office. The System Office will request a waiver of competition with sole source justification for Ellucian. Ellucian has proprietary ownership of the Colleague suite of products and there are no other dealers/value added resellers that offer this product, service and support on behalf of Ellucian.

**Contract Amount and Time Period:** This amendment will encompass the period from January 2, 2015 through September 30, 2015, for a cost not to exceed \$958,320.

**Fund Availability:** Funding is available from State General Fund appropriations that have been transferred to a non-reverting special funds specifically dedicated for CIS upgrades.

**Contact:**

Dr. Sandra W. Williams  
Senior Vice President and Chief of Technology and Workforce Development

Bruce Humphrey  
Associate Vice President of Information Resources and Technology and Chief Information Officer