

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Contract for North Carolina Learning Object Repository (NCLOR)**

**Request:** The State Board is asked to approve a one year extension of the contract with eCollege.com (formerly Pearson-Equella) for maintenance and support, not to exceed \$120,000 for the North Carolina Community College System Learning Object Repository (NCLOR).

**Background:** Since the State Board of Community College approval in July 2007, the NCLOR has evolved into full production in accordance with the implementation plan. There are over 57,000 learning objects available to all faculty and instructional programs via Blackboard® or Moodle® learning management systems (LMS) across NCCCS.

In August 2010, North Carolina was named as one of the winners of the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top grant. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) through Race to the Top funding joined forces with NCCCS in supporting the NCLOR. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) formed the NC Education Cloud Initiative. The NC Education Cloud is a \$34.6 million shared services initiative designed to more efficiently and effectively deliver technology services to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in North Carolina. In March 2011, the Education Cloud approached NCCCS with a proposed partnership to expand the NCLOR to the LEAs of North Carolina, serving 1.5 million K-12 students across NC. DPI's Instructional Improvement System (HomeBase) which now uses the NCLOR as its main repository for all learning resources. Also, DPI is funding an initiative to roll-out the NCLOR directly to the LEAs. Two LEAs joined NCCCS in a pilot of NCLOR last fiscal year. Four additional LEAs will join this year. These six LEAs will be used as models for any remaining LEAs which elect to join the NCLOR thereafter.

As a result of the partnership, NCCCS and DPI were able to procure the eCollege.com perpetual license for the application software in the amount of \$1,189,000 in year one of the three-year contract. Each agency was solely responsible for their share of the cost and NCCCS provided \$189,000 towards the \$1,189,000 first year cost for license, maintenance and support. Ongoing costs are for application maintenance and support.

**Rationale for Contract:**

This NCLOR contract with eCollege.com provides the following application software maintenance and support and professional services and training:

1. The cost of maintenance and support for this fiscal year of the agreement is:
  - \$250,000 (includes maintenance and support only)

DPI agrees to pay \$150,000 and NCCCS agrees to pay \$100,000 of the total cost of the maintenance and support.

2. Professional/technical services, training, and travel costs will not exceed \$20,000. This includes:

- Training sessions for administrators as required.
- Designing, testing, and implementing any updates to NCLOR as approved by the NCLOR staff. Some updates may be incorporated into the standard software product at no charge. Other changes deemed necessary by the operations committee and specific to NCLOR, will be managed as "custom software."
- Travel for eCollege.com staff not to exceed \$2,500, based on the NCCCS out-of-state per diem rates.

**Method of Procurement:** In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the contract by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State IT Procurement Office.

**Contract Time & Amount:** Total cost of eCollege.com contract will not exceed \$270,000, July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. The Department of Public Instruction agrees to pay \$150,000 and NCCCS agrees to pay \$120,000 of the total cost of the maintenance and support and professional/technical services.

**Funding Source and Availability:** Funding is contingent upon FY 15-16 State General Fund appropriation for the 2+2 E-Learning Initiative.

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