

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract Renewal for Broadband Connectivity**

Request: The State Board is asked to approve the third year of a three year contract with MCNC for up to \$3,919,415, for continuing broadband connectivity for fifty-eight community colleges.

Background: In 2011, the State Board initiated a 1-year contract with MCNC to provide all community college main campuses with broadband data service and video services. The contract provided two 1-year renewal options, ending on June 30, 2014. In November of 2013, we requested and received a proposal from MCNC to extend the contract for one year with the option to renew for two additional one year periods. MCNC responded with a 5% reduction in cost per year and added enhancements to the services previously offered. ITS Purchasing evaluated and approved our request for a waiver of competition and the contract extension on November 26, 2013.

MCNC is an independent non-profit organization that operates the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN). NCREN provides broadband data and video services to the NC Community College System, the UNC System, NC Public Schools, many private colleges and universities, government organizations and other non-profit organizations. Broadband, in this context, can be defined as the continuous connection of colleges to a high-speed network that supports data communications, including video services.

Rationale: MCNC, through its operation of NCREN, will provide a minimum of 100Mbps committed capacity for the main campus at each NC Community College, burstable to 1Gbps with a guaranteed availability of 99.999% uptime, latency of less than 25ms, and a mean response time for repairs of 3 hours or less for all outages. MCNC will provide routers on all campuses, unlimited commodity Internet access and Internet2 access, a Network Operations Center with 24-hour access to support and provide college access to a secure portal for network performance monitoring and support.

MCNC will provide unlimited video conference services including standard definition and high definition for every community college, for high schools with an associated community college Early College program, and the System Office. MCNC will provide up to 58 MediaSite EX Server and Storage services for video storage and streaming. Video technical support will be available Monday through Friday 7:30AM to 9:30PM.

MCNC will provide up to 3,000 hours of Client Network Engineering (CNE) services per year (1 and ½ dedicated personnel) available to all community colleges. CNE time can be utilized by each college or by the System Office in support of the colleges. Services include network design, network assessments, general technical guidance and advice, training, recommended practices and assistance resolving complex network problems.

MCNC will provide a dedicated advocate monitoring the internal performance and needs of all community colleges.

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 DIT Procurement Office.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The contract amount is up to \$3,919,415 for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Total cost for the three year period, will be up to \$11,758,245.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is contingent upon the availability of FY 16-17 General Fund appropriations.

Contact Persons:

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