

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Retail Credentialing
FY 2021-22

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve the allocation of \$250,000 to establish the RISE Up training program. The funding will cover the costs of training and credential exams for approximately 600 Cooperative Innovative High School students who enroll in the noncredit, short-term workforce RISE Up training program through a partner North Carolina Community College.

Strategic Plan References:

Theme: Student Interest and Access

Goal #1: Increase the percentage of North Carolinians, particularly within underserved populations, pursuing and easily accessing education or training through North Carolina community colleges.

- Objective 1.2. Increase student interest and success in industries experiencing skills gaps.
 - Strategy 1.2.1. Market the value of technical education and workforce training for jobs/careers.

Theme: Economic and Workforce Development

Goal #3: Ensure the educational pipeline prepares a workforce possessing the interest, knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet the needs of employers, now and into the future.

- Objective 3.1. Collaborate with stakeholders to promote a workforce system that fosters innovation and establishes seamless connections among community colleges, K-12 education, universities, workforce and economic development partners, and business and industry.
 - Strategy 3.1.2 Partner with high schools, universities, and workforce development entities and engage with employers and industry associations at the regional/local levels to identify workforce needs and establish educational and training programs collaboratively and comprehensively.

Background: Session Law 2021-180 Section 6.8.(a) establishes RISE Up Training and Credentialing Program for Cooperative Innovative High Schools and directs the System Office to collaborate with the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association and Retail Consumer Alliance Foundation to implement the RISE Up credentialing program for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to teach foundational skills to students attending Cooperative Innovative High Schools. Students who complete the program will earn industry credentials in the following areas: customer service/sales, inventory management/profitability, supply chain warehouse/inventory, and logistics.

In addition, the legislation requires an initial report by October 1, 2022 and a final report by October 1, 2023 on the results of implementing the RISE Up program at partner community

colleges for students at cooperative innovative high schools, including the number of students who received credentials, by type of credential, and student outcomes related to the credentialing such as internships or job placements.

Rationale: North Carolina must have a well-trained retail workforce in continue to grow our economy. Additionally, the career opportunities in the retail industry continue to grow as both traditional and e-commerce expands in the state.

As the System Office has not yet determined whether it is best to allocate funds to a lead college or to the 57 community colleges affiliated with a Cooperative Innovative High School, it is requested that the System President be delegated the authority to determine the allocation.

Time Period: January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from a nonrecurring General Fund appropriation in the 2021 Appropriations Act (Session Law 2021-180).

Contact:

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