

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Service Agreement for the Virtual Computing Environment (VCE)

Request: The State Board is requested to approve \$130,600 for a Service Agreement with North Carolina State University for participation in the Virtual Computing Environment (VCE). This collaborative project of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) and NC State University allows individual community colleges to provide computer lab services through cloud computing and to achieve cost efficiencies for software and hardware. Cloud computing is a general term for anything that involves delivering hosted services over the Internet.

Background: The VCE is a remote access service that allows students and faculty to request or reserve a session with a desired set of applications, and to remotely access it over the Internet. Students and faculty can use a number of advanced computer applications. Linux® and numerous Windows® environments are available. NCCCS and NC State have and will continue to work with community colleges wishing to provide additional specialized software for faculty and student course access.

The initial Service Agreement with NC State included the period from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, and has been renewed each year through December 31, 2015.

Rationale: The VCE business model provides community colleges a cost-effective alternative to expensive, traditional computer labs. The VCE business model will continue to support the community colleges which previously participated in year eight of the VCE, but the colleges must submit an application to identify participants involved, course sections, and software to be used.

The capacity of this cloud computing environment was expanded in 2011-12 with the addition of higher capacity blade hardware. The increase in storage capacity will allow for up to 35 community colleges to participate in this project. Colleges are selected via a competitive request-for-participation process. The 2015 application was issued on November 3, 2015, with a rolling acceptance procedure. The following colleges are participating in the VCE.

Alamance CC	Davidson County CC	Roanoke-Chowan CC
Asheville Buncombe Tech	Edgecombe CC	Sandhills CC
Beaufort CC	Fayetteville Tech CC	South Piedmont CC
Bladen CC	Guilford Tech CC	Surry CC
Brunswick CC	Isothermal CC	Tri-County CC
Cape Fear CC	Johnston CC	Vance-Granville CC
Catawba Valley CC	Mayland CC	Wake Tech CC
Cleveland CC	Nash CC	Wilson CC
Central Piedmont CC	Pitt CC	

Training and technical support are provided by NC State University. Regional information sessions and webinars are scheduled throughout the year to provide access to the onboarding process.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, there is no requirement for competition or approval by outside purchasing authorities for contracts between state agencies.

Contract Time Period and Amount: The total amount of this contract is \$130,600 for services provided for the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding for this contract is available through the FY 2015-2016 State General Fund appropriation.

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