

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for BioNetwork Center

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$115,000 to be allocated to one BioNetwork Center host college (BioNetwork Center at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College) from February 18, 2014 through June 30, 2014. This amount will cover the expenses to update and enhance a training laboratory to support the food and beverage manufacturing industry in North Carolina.

Background: The BioNetwork Center at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College (AB Tech) recently has been assigned the state-wide role within BioNetwork to support all food and beverage manufacturing workers with training and education. The requested funds will be used to purchase necessary equipment for updating a training laboratory that includes a gas chromatography (GC) unit, a rotovap unit, a vortex, a balance, two vacuum pumps, an automatic titration unit, and biosafety hood filters.

Rationale: BioNetwork supports all 58 community colleges and their local life science industry. Food and beverage manufacturing is a highly regulated industry, and the same competencies and processes involved in other life science sectors are involved in food and beverage manufacturing. Thus, supporting the food and beverage manufacturing industry falls within the responsibility of BioNetwork. Funding ensures services and training for the State's life science industry will continue.

Method of Allocation: The Interim Director worked with the manager at the BioNetwork Center at AB Tech to develop the request in partnership with several food and beverage manufacturers. A total of \$115,000 is recommended for allocation to the BioNetwork Center at AB Tech.

Fund Source and Allocation Period: Funding is available from the FY 2013-2014 State General Fund appropriations for BioNetwork. The allocation time period is February 18, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

Contact Person:

Maria Pharr
Executive Director of BioNetwork and Life Science Initiatives