

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for North Carolina Space Grant

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$10,000 to be allocated to seven NC Community Colleges from the North Carolina Space Grant fund. The community colleges are Catawba Valley (lead college), Durham, Southwestern, Craven, Pitt, Rowan-Cabarrus and Edgecombe Community Colleges.

Background: The North Carolina Space Grant (NC Space Grant) is a consortium of universities, industries, government agencies and non-profit organizations committed to addressing the Nation's science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce development needs. The NC Community College System has been participating in and allocating the funds for this program since FY 2010-11. This year, the funding will support seven community colleges competing in the High Altitude Balloon Payload Student Design Competition. This two-semester activity culminates in a final balloon launch and retrieval during the NC Science Festival in April 2017. Teams design, build, test and launch payloads attached to near space weather balloons and retrieve the payloads that gently return to the ground with parachutes once the balloon pops in the upper atmosphere. The payloads collect data and take photos from heights as far up as 100,000 feet.

Rationale: The NC Space Grant, in partnership with NASA, advocates for STEM Career Pathway development for students at universities and community colleges. As an affiliate, the NC Community College System developed a plan to expend funds received from the program, which includes providing up to \$10,000 in funding for the High Altitude Balloon Payload Student Design Competition. This competition, between the community colleges, addresses NASA's goals to enhance and better promote STEM Career Pathways in North Carolina.

Method of Allocation: Catawba Valley Community College will take on the role of lead college for the competition. They will be allocated \$5,000 which will cover the cost of the event location, helium for the balloon at the launch event and other event day expenses, such as audio equipment and appropriate permits. The remaining \$5,000 will be split among the other six community colleges to cover travel expenses for their teams to participate in the event.

College	Allocation Amount
Catawba Valley Community College	\$ 5,000
Craven Community College	\$ 833
Durham Technical Community College	\$ 833
Edgecombe Community College	\$ 833
Pitt Community College	\$ 833
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	\$ 834
Southwestern Community College	\$ 834
Total Allocation	\$ 10,000

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation of funding is for the period of October 21, 2016 through May 31, 2017.

Fund Source and Availability: These funds are available through the NC Space Grant Affiliate Program for the period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

Contact Person:

Matthew Meyer, Associate Vice President
STEM Innovations and Strategic Planning