

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Allocations for BioNetwork Host Colleges**

**Request:** The State Board is asked to approve **\$3,614,808** to be allocated to six BioNetwork host colleges from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This amount represents the current operational funds for salaries, equipment, and other costs for the fiscal year (FY) 2014-2015. Though the need for the remaining funds (approximately \$530,000) have been identified by the host colleges, it is the intention of the Executive Director of BioNetwork and Life Science Initiatives to review the critical biotechnology and life science industry workforce needs and confirm that funds are appropriately distributed.

**Background:** BioNetwork began in 2003 with the concept of key biotechnology and life science “centers of excellence,” each hosted at a particular community college and designed to provide education and training resources across the state related to each center’s area of expertise. While the areas of expertise were relevant to the existing economic landscape, a decade of interaction between BioNetwork and the biotechnology and life science industry sector has highlighted a need to restructure BioNetwork to target not only the existing industries but also the burgeoning and impactful industries that currently influence the North Carolina economy. The new structure of BioNetwork reflects an industry-focused approach that improves BioNetwork’s efficacy, communication, and accountability reporting by focusing on a particular industry sector rather than host college location. Within this new structure, directors oversee key biotechnology and life science sectors with subject matter experts located across the state near industry clusters.

While BioNetwork has successfully contributed to the knowledge creation and workforce development in key biotechnology and life science industries over the past year by conducting training for 1,107 individuals for over 17,000 hours, developing training programs through NCWorks Customized Training for 74 North Carolina industries, providing 67 new courses in life science topics, and showcasing STEM careers to more than 45,000 middle, high school, and community college students throughout North Carolina, plans for the upcoming year will target the needs of growth industries in food and beverage manufacturing, medical and surgical device manufacturing, and entrepreneurial lab services to further advance the mission of BioNetwork. The growth in these North Carolina industries may involve hiring additional personnel to support the increased demand for specific industry training. Therefore, continuous analyses of the North Carolina biotechnology and life science industry needs will be conducted to guide the allocation of future BioNetwork resources to meet the educational and workforce demands.

**Method of Allocation:** The Executive Director of BioNetwork and Life Science Initiatives will allocate operational funding to each of the host colleges according to the required salary, equipment, and other costs of the BioNetwork staff and their activities as necessary to perform their duties in accordance with the BioNetwork mission and within state funding regulations. The Executive Director of BioNetwork and Life Science Initiatives reserves the right to recall unused funding for reallocation to other BioNetwork host colleges as needed.

**Recommended Host College Budget Allocations:****Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College \$1,077,609**

Focus Area: Food, Beverage, and Natural Products

Location: A-B Tech's Enka Site

Full-Time Positions: 8

The BioNetwork staff in the Food, Beverage, and Natural Products industry sector provide relevant onsite and industry-site training and education through NCWorks Customized Training in addition to open enrollment short courses. The Natural Products Laboratory has become a national center for natural products innovation where researchers and entrepreneurs can find start-up information, educational programs, support coordination, mentoring, and referrals to launch their enterprise. A-B Tech's BioNetwork staff also assist the NCCCS Small Business Center Network and offer a large variety of seminars and workshops on biotechnology and life science topics for industry, educators, and NCCCS students.

**Forsyth Technical Community College \$190,093**

Focus Area: National Center for Biotechnology Workforce; Analytical Laboratory; Mobile Training Laboratory

Location: Wake Forest University's Innovation Quarter

Full-Time Positions: 3

The National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce represents, enables, and provides leadership at the national level for the biotechnology workforce with compatible organizations, educational, and training institutions. The National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce currently receives approximately 49% of its salary and benefit costs through funding from national grants, but gap funding is provided for the remaining salary and benefit costs as well as operational costs through BioNetwork. Funding for Forsyth Community College also includes operational costs for the Analytical Laboratory and the Mobile Training Laboratory, which provide analytical equipment for biotechnology and life science industry training.

**Gaston College \$693,098**

Focus Area: Learning Solutions Center

Location: Gaston Community College Campus

Full-Time Positions: 6

The Learning Solutions Center has the responsibility for transforming courses into distance learning or interactive, electronic digital-learning formats for colleges in the NCCCS. The Learning Solutions Center also creates interactive, electronic training and educational modules, videos, and virtual learning objects for industry training across the state and maintains the Web presence for BioNetwork.

**Pitt Community College \$482,727**

Focus Area: Education and Industry Engagement

Location: Technology Enterprise Center

Full-Time Positions: 4

The activities at Pitt Community College focus on developing and coordinating state-wide education and industry engagement activities. Educational engagement includes training community college faculty to understand and incorporate learning tools within their curriculum to

advance the knowledge and skills of their students for successful entry into the biotechnology and life science workforce; developing and delivering presentations that help K-14 students connect educational pathways to career goals; and presenting workshops and seminars to help educators and students understand the benefits and the variety of careers in the life science sector. The staff also focus on industry engagement, including maintaining awareness of the current and future needs of the North Carolina biotechnology and life science industry and communicating and promoting BioNetwork services throughout the state.

**Robeson Community College**

**\$129,694**

Focus Area: Food Manufacturing  
Location: Robeson Community College Campus  
Full-Time Positions: 1

The activities of the Industry Trainer located at Robeson Community College include providing industry-site training, curriculum development, and subject matter expertise to support the NCCCS colleges that are involved in offering agricultural biotechnology programs or who serve the food manufacturing industry.

**Wake Technical Community College**

**\$1,041,587**

Focus Area: Biomanufacturing (\$922,936) and STEM Bus Program (\$118,651)  
Location: BTEC on NCSU's Centennial Campus  
Full-Time Positions: 11

The BioNetwork Capstone Center focuses on offering hands-on, short course training in biomanufacturing and pharmaceutical operations to incumbent workers, new hires, and community college students in a simulated cGMP (current Good Manufacturing Practice) facility. The activities of the Capstone Center include providing biomanufacturing training through NCWorks Customized Training and providing open enrollment short courses, workshops, and seminars to industry, educators, and NCCCS students. The STEM bus is centrally located in the state and provides hands-on career guidance and skills training to K-14 students across the state.

**Fund Source and Allocation Period:** Funding is available from the FY 2014-2015 State General Fund appropriations for BioNetwork. The allocation time period is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

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