

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Service Agreement for the Virtual Computing Environment
FY 2017-18

Request: The State Board is requested to approve \$100,325 for a Service Agreement with North Carolina State University (NCSU) for participation in the Virtual Computing Environment (VCE). This collaborative project of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) and NCSU 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 NCSU 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 NCSU included the period from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, and has been renewed each year through December 31, 2017.

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 nine 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 allows for up to 35 community colleges to participate in this project. College participation is awarded via a rolling acceptance procedure as applications are received and reviewed by the VCE Steering Committee. The following colleges are participating in the VCE.

Asheville-Buncombe Tech. CC	Davidson County CC	Mayland CC
Beaufort County CC	Isothermal CC	Pitt CC
Cape Fear CC	Johnston CC	Southeastern CC
Craven CC	Lenoir CC	Surry CC

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

Method of Allocation: 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.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The total amount of this contract is \$100,325 for services provided for the period January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding for this contract is available through the FY 2017-2018 State General Fund appropriation.

Contacts:

Jim Parker
Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Katherine Davis
Director of Distance Learning and Change Management
Technology Solutions and Distance Learning