

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Virtual Learning Community Course Enhancement

Request: The State Board is requested to approve an additional allocation of \$200,000 to Surry Community College for the Virtual Learning Community Quality and Assessment Center (VLC) to enhance fifteen online courses in both curriculum and continuing education.

Background: The Virtual Learning Community is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina Community College System to increase the quality and availability of online learning and support services for the benefit and success of distance learning students. When the VLC began in 1999, its sole purpose was to develop quality online courses that could be shared by colleges throughout the System. In 2006, the role of the VLC was expanded when VLC strategic objectives moved beyond course development to support all functions of distance learning across the state. Centers were created to support professional development, technology enhancement, and quality and assessment. The VLC Professional Development Center at Wake Technical Community College coordinates efforts to deliver the training opportunities necessary to deliver online courses and programs based on sound pedagogy and the latest technology tools. The VLC Technology Center at Fayetteville Technical Community College coordinates a vetting process for learning technologies to address the rapid changes in online course delivery. Course redesign, editing or content development, research, best practices or standards development, and needs assessment are coordinated by the Quality and Assessment Center, as are any projects that may be funded through various grant resources or state appropriations. This center is tasked with the coordination of efforts by all three centers. For FY 2013-14, the State Board on May 17, 2013 (FC 4) approved an allocation to the Quality and Assessment Center in the amount of \$440,000 consisting of \$125,000 in operational costs and \$315,000 for collaborative projects across all three centers.

Rationale: Due to permanent reductions in funding for the VLC over the past five years, editing centers have been eliminated. This has delayed the refresh cycle of courses and caused many of the 350+ courses to be out of date due to changes through the Curriculum Review Committee, Transfer and Articulation Committee, Course Improvement Projects, and other content change processes. Many courses need to be updated by the VLC to keep pace with these changes, as well as content changes mandated by the state for licensed programs (such as the Nurse Aid courses for Continuing Education (NUR3240 and 3241). DHHS is allowing NCCCS colleges to use the current online version of NUR 3240 until July 1, 2014. After July 1, all colleges delivering NUR 3240 online must use the new curriculum to remain in compliance. The BIO168 and 169 courses are used in the nursing pre-major curriculum. Other courses chosen for editing include general education core courses and mathematics courses that are used across several different curriculum standards, including the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science, the two highest FTE enrollments of all degree programs. The requested funds will provide for editing of the following courses: NUR3240, NUR3241, PHY151, PHY152, BIO168, BIO169, ART111, ART114, ART115, HIS111, HIS112, SOC210, MAT143, MAT171, and MAT263.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: Surry Community College, VLC Quality and Assessment Center, will coordinate the course enhancement project allocation of \$200,000, for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2014.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is available from FY 2013-2014 State General Fund appropriations for the 2 + 2 E-Learning Initiative.

Contact:

Dr. Sandra Williams
Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer
Technology Solutions and Distance Learning

Wanda Barker
Executive Director of eLearning and Learning Technology Systems