

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract for North Carolina Learning Object Repository (NCLOR)

Request: The State Board is asked to approve up to \$100,000 for a one year extension of the contract with eCollege.com (formerly Pearson-Equella) for maintenance and support for the North Carolina Learning Object Repository (NCLOR).

Background: Since the State Board of Community Colleges approval in July 2007, the NCLOR has evolved into full production in accordance with the implementation plan. There are over 190,000 learning resources available to all K-14 faculty and instructional programs via learning management systems.

In August 2010, North Carolina was named as one of the winners of the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top grant. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) through Race to the Top funding joined forces with NCCCS in supporting of the NCLOR. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) formed the NC Education Cloud Initiative. The NC Education Cloud is a \$34.6 million shared services initiative designed to more efficiently and effectively deliver technology services to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in North Carolina. In March 2011, the Education Cloud approached NCCCS with a proposed partnership to expand the NCLOR to the LEAs of North Carolina, serving 1.5 million K-12 students across our state. DPI's Instructional Improvement System (HomeBase) which now uses the NCLOR as its main repository for all learning resources. Also, DPI is funding an initiative to roll-out the NCLOR directly to the LEAs. Two LEAs joined NCCCS in a pilot of NCLOR in 2014. Four additional LEAs joined the pilot in 2015. These six LEAs will be used as models for any remaining LEAs which elect to join the NCLOR thereafter.

As a result of the partnership, NCCCS and DPI were able to procure the eCollege.com perpetual license for the application software in the amount of \$1,189,000 in 2012; year one of the three-year contract. Each agency was solely responsible for their share of the cost and NCCCS provided \$189,000 towards the \$1,189,000 first year cost for license, maintenance, and support. Ongoing costs are for application maintenance and support. For future years, DPI agreed to pay \$150,000 and NCCCS agreed to pay \$100,000 of the total cost of the maintenance and support.

The NCLOR has grown tremendously within the last two years. In the past year alone, the NCLOR saw 68,000 user sessions (i.e. logins) with over 700,000 pages viewed.

Rationale for Contract: This NCLOR contract with eCollege.com provides the application software maintenance and support. The cost of maintenance and support for this agreement is \$250,000. DPI agrees to pay \$150,000 and NCCCS agrees to pay \$100,000 of the total cost of this maintenance and support.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the contract by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State Department of Information Technology Contracts and Strategic Sourcing.

Contract Time & Amount: Total cost of the eCollege.com contract will not exceed \$250,000, July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. The Department of Public Instruction agrees to pay \$150,000 and NCCCS agrees to pay \$100,000 of the total cost of the maintenance and support.

Funding Availability: Funding is contingent on FY 2016-17 State General Fund appropriation for the 2+2 E-Learning Initiative.

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