

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Sub-Orbital Student Competition

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$35,000 to be allocated to six NC Community Colleges from the Sub-orbital student competition sub-grant (NASA grant) managed by the North Carolina Space Grant.

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 (STEM) workforce development needs. The NC Community College System Office is a partner with NC Space Grant on a grant from NASA focused on a high-altitude balloon payload student-design competition. This year, the grant funding will go to support the six colleges participating in the competition. This two-semester activity culminates in a final balloon launch and retrieval during the NC Science Festival in April. 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: This grant was initially a two-year grant, however, NC Space Grant was able to attain a no-cost additional year extension to allow unexpended funds from year two go toward supporting the competition for one more year. This competition between the community colleges addresses NASA's goals to enhance and better promote STEM Career Pathways in NC.

Method of Allocation: The six community colleges will be allocated \$5,833 each from the \$35,000 (\$27,962 unexpended in year two of sub-orbital grant from NASA, plus \$7,038 supplemental amount from NC State's portion of the sub-orbital NASA grant). The \$5,833 per college will cover the cost of supplies and small parts for the payload, helium for prototype tests, and travel for retrieval of the payload post-launch.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation of funding is for the period of November 18, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

Fund Source and Availability: These funds are available through the Sub-orbital grant for the period July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

Contact Person:

Matthew Meyer
Associate Vice President
STEM Innovations and Strategic Planning

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College	Allocation
Catawba Valley Community College	\$5,833
Durham Technical Community College	\$5,833
Edgecombe Community College	\$5,833
Pitt Community College	\$5,833
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	\$5,834
Southwestern Community College	\$5,834
Total Allocation	\$35,000