

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
North Carolina Competency-Based Education Incubator (NC-CBE Incubator)

Request: The State Board is asked to approve \$125,000 in Perkins Career and Technical Education Leadership Funds, and \$500,000 in non-recurring General Fund appropriations included in the 2016 Appropriations Act (H1030) for phase two of the 2016-17 North Carolina Competency-Based Education Project (NC-CBE Project).

Background: The institutional partners of the NC-CBE Project are Central Piedmont Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Stanly Community College, Wake Technical Community College, and North Carolina Community College System. The goal of the NC-CBE Project is to build a sustainable and scalable AAS model for the NC Community College system that will provide students across the state with an affordable way to:

- get credit for what they already know,
- build on their knowledge and skills at their own pace,
- earn high-quality, industry-validated degrees and credentials,
- get a new job or advance along a career pathway, and
- earn a fair wage to support themselves and their family.

Rationale: Institutions of higher education in North Carolina, and across the nation, are under pressure to reduce costs, increase completion rates, maintain open access, and ensure all graduates have the skills our industry partners' demand. These pressures have created a considerable and growing interest in new and creative approaches that can reduce costs, increase accessibility, and improve student success while ensuring quality of instruction. Competency-Based Education (CBE) is an innovative educational delivery model in higher education that has shown great promise to meet these demands; however, CBE programming on NCCCS campuses is limited and inconsistent across degree programs. There is currently no standardized process for colleges to implement CBE programming to fill students' knowledge and training gaps toward certification/licensure, or continued education and advanced degrees.

Accomplishments – Phase One (2015-2016): Over the last 12 months, a multidisciplinary team from the partner colleges, supported by National CBE experts, engaged in strategic planning and consensus building activities. The 65 members of the NC-CBE Project team include: faculty, academic administrators, and leaders from business and finance, information technology, and student support services. Primary deliverables of the collective team over the last year included:

- Professional development activities were developed and implemented to establish a common understanding of CBE (webinars (6), planning workshops (6), web portals (3) and national conferences);

- The NC-CBE Project Design Elements Guide was researched and developed detailing 26 key program design elements to be considered in establishing a CBE learning model for NC;
- Strategic planning activities were implemented to address the 26 key program design elements resulting in consensus on a comprehensive project design;
- A shared digital learning environment and interoperability plan for CBE was researched and developed;
- The NC-CBE Project Learning & Business Plan was developed with a management plan and budget to guide our work through 2018.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is contingent upon award from the Carl D. Perkins, Career and Technical Education, State Leadership funds and enactment of H1030 (2016 Appropriations Act).

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation period for both components of the allocation is July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

Contact:

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