

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract Amendment for Learning Management System Hosting
FY 2017-18

Request: The State Board is asked to approve an amendment to the contract with Blackboard Inc., for a six-month contract to provide cloud hosting for the North Carolina Community College System Office for the period January 1, 2018, through June 30, 2018. The cost of this cloud hosting is \$5,000. This amendment provides for a one-time migration cost of \$2,500 and a six-month maintenance cost of \$2,500.

Background: In March 2010, the System Office started supporting two learning management systems for the 58 community colleges - Blackboard, a licensed LMS, and Moodle®, an open source LMS. The System Office currently negotiates the contracts for the LMSs and provides support services through training and information resources of the Virtual Learning Community and the North Carolina Learning Object Repository.

Online and hybrid courses are developed for all NCCCS colleges by the Virtual Learning Community (VLC) in Blackboard and Moodle LMSs. The VLC Blackboard instance is hosted on a server at the System Office which requires infrastructure maintenance, support, and resources. Migrating the System Office Blackboard hosting instance to the cloud will result in greater reliability, accessibility, higher standards of performance and security, and a reduction in the administrative overhead to maintain the current server infrastructure.

The master Blackboard, Inc. contract includes the Blackboard Learn LMS for 19 colleges and the System Office, Blackboard Student Services online helpdesk services for all 58 community colleges, and Blackboard Collaborate, a video conferencing software platform used by the System Office. On March 17, 2017, the State Board of Community Colleges approved FC-04, the FY 2017-18 contract for services in the amount of \$1,399,743.65.

Rationale for Contract: The amendment to the existing Blackboard Inc. contract approved by the State Board of Community Colleges on March 17, 2017 (FC-04), will allow the NCCCS to realize greater efficiencies through cloud hosting with increased performance and security, as well as a reduction in administrative resources by System Office IT personnel who will no longer be responsible for installing system updates and patches and maintaining an on-premise server.

Method of Procurement: This amendment is made to an existing contract between the North Carolina Community College System and Blackboard Inc. Approval of the contract by the State Board of Community Colleges is contingent upon approval by the State Department of Information Technology Contracts and Strategic Sourcing.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The contract period is from January 1, 2018, through June 30, 2018. This amendment includes a one-time cost, not to exceed \$5,000 which includes \$2,500 for migration costs and a six-month cost of \$2,500 for maintenance; therefore, the total FY 2017-18 contract with Blackboard, Inc. is \$1,404,743.65.

Fund Availability: The funding for this amendment is through FY 2017-18 State General Fund Appropriations for the 2 + 2 E-Learning Initiative.

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