

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Allocation for Virtual Learning Community Course Development**

**Request:** The State Board is requested to approve an allocation of \$250,000 to Surry Community College for the Virtual Learning Community Quality and Assessment Center (VLC) to develop 11 online curriculum courses.

**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 an evaluation 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 located at Surry Community College, 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 2015-16, the State Board on May 15, 2015 (FC-3), approved an allocation to the Quality and Assessment Center in the amount of \$415,000 consisting of \$125,000 for operational costs and \$290,000 for collaborative projects. The funding for VLC collaborative projects is managed by Surry Community College but the responsibilities for the projects are shared by all three centers. Projects for 2015-16 include continued development of web accessibility guidelines, course content accessibility, State Authorization content and distribution, ADA compliance support for local colleges developing mandated five-year compliance plans, a course evaluation pilot project to review the courses developed in 2014-15, research and professional development of Open Educational Resources (OER), content mapping of North Carolina Learning Object Repository (NCLOR) resources to Universal General Education Transfer Component (UGETC) courses, and digital applications mapped to UGETC courses.

**Rationale:** The Virtual Learning Community (VLC) will complete the development of the UGETC courses with the development of seven of these eleven courses. The UGETC courses and four language courses are all included on the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement Transfer Course List. These VLC courses will be shared by faculty at all 58 community colleges. The courses will be available to colleges in both Blackboard® and Moodle® learning management systems. The courses were selected in collaboration with the Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Services.

VLC Courses to be developed are:

- AST 111 – Descriptive Astronomy (*UGETC course*)
- AST 111A – Descriptive Astronomy Lab (*UGETC course*)
- AST 151 – General Astronomy I (*UGETC course*)
- AST 151A – General Astronomy I Lab (*UGETC course*)
- PHY 251 – General Physics I (*UGETC course*)
- PHY 252 – General Physics II (*UGETC course*)
- HIS 112 – World Civilizations II (*UGETC course*)
- SPA 111 – Elementary Spanish I
- SPA 112 – Elementary Spanish II
- SPA 181 – Spanish Lab I
- SPA 182 – Spanish Lab II

**Allocation Amount and Time Period:** Surry Community College, VLC Quality and Assessment Center, will coordinate the course enhancement project allocation of \$250,000, for the period of September 18, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

**Fund Source and Availability:** Funding is contingent upon FY 2015-2016 State General Fund appropriations for the 2 + 2 E-Learning Initiative.

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