STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Additional 2021 Budget Request for Cybersecurity Positions and Resources

Request: Amend the 2021 Budget Priorities to include a request for nine System Office regional cybersecurity positions and funds to assist in cybersecurity assessments and plan implementation to proactively reduce the likelihood of further ransomware attacks. The NCACCP Executive Committee and NCACCT leadership has endorsed this additional request. Also, the request for eight positions was a part of the 2020 (pre-Covid) consensus budget priorities.

Background: Since 2019, there have been four major cyber events involving ransomeware at community colleges. Recovery time varies, but is typically two weeks or longer. Investigation and recovery for these attacks involve not only the NC Community College System Office IT personnel, but the SBI, FBI, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Information Technology, the NC National Guard, and the NC Local Government Information Systems Association "Strike Team". Several of these events caused entire networks to be compromised resulting in the need to reconfigure and rebuild all of the MS Windows-based services. In total, these ransomware attacks impacted 790 servers. These attacks are not only costly to colleges but also impact the operation of critical IT functions and systems needed by the colleges' faculty, staff, and students.

Rationale: The recent proliferation of ransomware and at community colleges requires additional resources to proactively address the increasing threat of cyberattacks.

9 Regional Security Officers to provide staff leadership, support, policy development, and localized training and program evaluation.	$1,497,301 R
Funds for Security Engineering and Technical Assistance professional services to provide security engineering and technical assistance to inform the development of a System-wide Security Architecture and Implementation Plan.	$750,000NR
Professional services and expertise to implement the plan referenced above across the entire System.	$1,500,000 NR

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