

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Nursing Faculty Scholarship Program

Request: The State Board is asked to approve an allocation not to exceed \$100,000 to support the North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship/Forgivable Loan Program and to approve the administration of this program by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA).

Background Information: The North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) recommends that all nursing programs under the authority of the NCBON pursue and maintain national nursing accreditation. The national nursing accreditation body for Associate Degree Nursing programs is the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The ACEN requires all full-time nursing faculty in Associate Degree Nursing programs to hold a minimum of a graduate degree with a major in nursing. They require a minimum of fifty percent of the full-time nursing faculty in Practical Nursing programs to hold a minimum of a graduate degree with a major in nursing. Currently, fifteen of our fifty-five Associate Degree in Nursing programs, and five of our forty Practical Nursing programs are approved by ACEN.

At its meeting on September 12, 2012, the North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation, Inc. approved funding for a nursing scholarship to support the North Carolina Community College System's goal of increasing the number of nursing faculty with a Master of Science in Nursing. The purpose of the North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship/ Forgivable Loan Program is to make a master's degree more accessible to current community college nursing faculty. The program will award up to twenty scholarships of \$5,000 per year for two years to community college nursing faculty who enroll in Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) education programs. The scholarship may be used at any accredited North Carolina institution of higher education. If approved for a scholarship, recipients must agree to terms of the scholarship/loan by completing a promissory note. Recipients are required to repay the scholarship/loan, if (1) there is a failure to complete the master's level program, or (2) the recipient fails to teach at a North Carolina community college for one full year for each year (up to two years) of scholarship/funding following completion of the master's program.

Method of Allocation: Part 1 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes created the State Education Assistance Authority to "authorize a system of financial assistance, consisting of grants, loans, work-study or other employment, and other aids, to assist qualified students to enable them to obtain an education beyond the high school level by attending public or private educational institutions". GS 116-209.45 established within the NCSEAA the authority to administer the loan terms and conditions of a Forgivable Education Loans for Service Program (FELS). Due to the terms and conditions of a forgivable loan program, including but not limited to promissory notes and repayment tracking, the North Carolina Community College System Office will allocate the administration of its Nursing Faculty Scholarship loan fund to the NCSEAA.

Fund Source and Availability: The allocation is supported by the funding from the North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation, Inc.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: The allocation shall not exceed \$100,000 for the period August 16, 2013 – August 31, 2014.

Contact:

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