

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Allocation for Tobacco Trust Fund Commission**  
**February 16, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

**Request:** The State Board is requested to approve \$210,000 in funding for 14 colleges. Funds will be utilized by colleges to provide scholarships for students in short-term workforce training programs and pathways leading to State or Industry recognized credentials.

**Background:** Project Skill-UP is a North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) initiative whose goal is to help individuals in North Carolina adversely impacted by changes in the tobacco-related sector of the economy. This support will provide scholarship assistance to individuals to “update” their current skills and provide them with additional marketable skills reflective of fast-growing occupations and/or new industries within their local communities.

Labor market statistics reveal an aging farming workforce, high rates of unemployment or underemployment, high rates of families living below the poverty levels, and a large number of economically distressed counties. With the decline in tobacco farming, related industries and shifts in the agriculture industry overall, access to education, occupational skills training, and targeted workshops/seminars are essential to economic stimulus and recovery in these counties.

The objectives of the project are to 1) provide short-term training programs supporting local workforce needs; 2) develop educational programs supporting diverse utilization of agriculture resources and enterprises; and 3) create education opportunities to assist small farmers in accessing new methods to support business sustainability.

**Method of Allocation:** A request for applications was sent to all colleges to identify the economic and employment impact of the change in tobacco production and manufacturing within their service areas. Colleges were requested to submit applications on how funds would be used to support the objectives of the grant.

Funding is recommended for all colleges who submitted applications.

COLLEGE NAME	FUNDING AMOUNT
Isothermal CC	\$ 15,000
James Sprunt CC	\$ 15,000
Johnston CC	\$ 15,000
Lenoir CC	\$ 15,000
Montgomery CC	\$ 15,000
Nash CC	\$ 15,000

Pitt CC	\$ 15,000
Sampson CC	\$ 15,000
Southeastern CC	\$ 15,000
Surry CC	\$ 15,000
Vance-Granville CC	\$ 15,000
Wayne CC	\$ 15,000
Wilkes CC	\$ 15,000
Wilson CC	\$ 15,000

Total allocation is \$210,000 for the period of February 16, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

**Fund Source and Availability:** The “Project Skill-UP” funds are contingent on the award of the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission grant 2017 Grant Cycle.

**Time Period:** The allocation period is February 16, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

**Contact(s):**

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