

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
State Board Reserve Funding for Align4NCWorks Pilot: Taste of Industry

Request: The State Board is asked to approve the use of State Board Reserve funds in the amount of \$42,000 to support and expand an Align4NCWorks piloted initiative called ‘Taste of Industry.’

Background: The Align4NCWorks Workforce Learning Summits in 2014 highlighted the need for collaborative strategies to overcome the “Interest Gap” (lack of interest by prospective students) in well-paying careers such as advanced manufacturing and other technical programs. While much energy has gone into trying to address the “Skills Gap” through training initiatives, the “Interest Gap” was discovered through the Align4NCWorks Workforce Learning Summits to be another primary root cause of the Skills Gap. In addition, there was discussion at many of the Summits about the relevance of curricula to the needs of employers.

The Align4NCWorks Boots on the Ground Eastern team (including staff/faculty at Pitt Community College) developed a program called ‘Taste of Industry.’ The purpose of this pilot is to promote community college/public school collaboration and help develop the pipeline of future workers by bringing high school teachers and non-technical community college faculty into the industrial education labs on the community college campus for hands-on experiences. In addition, the pilot will support a panel of employers to illustrate the connection between the labs and the “real-world work experience.” The employers will discuss the skills and competencies needed for their workforce and answer questions from participating faculty.

This one-day program, facilitated by local community college staff/faculty, will invite public school teachers and community college faculty from core academic areas (English, Math, etc.) to participate in training sessions held in the technical education program labs of our community colleges and discussions with employers. The funding from the State Board Reserve Fund will allow ‘Taste of Industry’ to reach more faculty in more locations of the state.

Rationale: The Taste of Industry program has several outcomes that are directly aligned to NC Community College System’s strategic plan:

1. Employer Engagement – exposing public school and community college faculty to local business leaders;
2. Validation of Skills and Competencies – allowing public school teachers and academic faculty to experience training in the technical program areas will facilitate new instructional ideas and new contextual curriculum improvements; and
3. Strengthening the Pipeline – teachers and faculty are defacto advisors for many students, so by exposing the teachers and faculty they will be better informed about industrial career pathways.

Funding Amount and Time Period: The \$42,000 request is for the period of March 18, 2016, through June 30, 2016.

Fund Source and Availability: FY 2015-16 funding is available from the State Board Reserve Fund.

Contact Person:

Matthew Meyer

Associate Vice President, STEM Innovations

Taste of Industry

Sample Outline of the Activity (subject to minor revisions):

I. Agenda

- Introductions
- Session 1: Rotation Lab Area
- Session 2: Rotation Lab Area
- Session 3: Rotation Lab Area
- Lunch & Learn: Industry Panel
- Session 4: Rotation Lab Area
- Session 5: Rotation Lab Area
- Session 6: Rotation Lab Area
- Wrap-up: Discussion of Curriculum Implications and Career Pathways

II. Description of the Overall Plan

Begin with a welcome and introduction to the Industrial Technology Department. Break out into six groups which will rotate through the six lab areas provided. Breaks will be provided in the 10 minutes between each session. A lunch funded with other resources will include an industry panel. At the end of the day, wrap-up will include discussion of public school and community college curriculum implications; CTE pathways; transfer options to various 2- and 4-year programs; and the employment outlook for these technical careers. Wrap-up will also allow time for discussion of any lingering questions about technical programs.

III. Description of Rotation Areas/Program Covered/Responsible Developer of Activity/Application

Rotation Lab Areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
Program	Mechanical Engineering Technology	Computer Integrated Technology	Industrial Systems Technology	Electronics Engineering Technology	Welding Technology	Mechanical Engineering Technology
Activity	Making a Bulldog Spatula	Making a Bulldog Keychain	Hydraulics Trainer Lesson	PLC Programming Lesson	Welding Activity	Robotic Arm Activity
Application	Metal Fabricating	3-D Modeling Software/Machining	Maintenance	Industrial Controllers	Welding	Robotic Programming

Capacity: 8 – 12 participants per site (public school teachers, career counselors, CC core academic instructors, others?)

Cost Estimate: Public school stipend or substitute teacher reimbursement - \$200/DAY; release time for faculty - \$175/Day; assume half public school/half CC faculty; program expenses/consumables = \$3,500 per college site.