

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Wake Tech Off Campus Center Request**

**Request:** Wake Technical Community College (WTCC) requests the State Board designate the Career Technical Education High School (CTEHS)/Downtown Technical Education Center as an approved Off Campus Center. The site is located at 2200 South Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC.

**Background:** Per G.S. 115D-5(a), the State Board is responsible for approving all community college sites. An off-campus center is a site that functions as a convenience location to provide appropriate population and geographic access to college programs. Students may complete certificates or diplomas at centers, but due to the level of support services such as libraries, student development services, etc., students would not normally be able to complete the associate degree at an off-campus center.

In December 2012, the Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of the former Coca-Cola Bottling Plant as the location for a new CTE high school. The site would serve dual purposes. During the day, WTCC will provide selected technical courses to CTEHS students in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. In the evening, WTCC will provide these courses to adult students.

The facility will be county-owned. The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) will enter into a 20-year lease with the County; likewise, WTCC will enter into a 20-year Memorandum of Understanding with WCPSS. Per the draft MOU provided, classrooms and administrative space will be designated for WTCC's exclusive use, including use during nights and weekends. WTCC will also have limited non-exclusive use of the Library/Learning Commons areas. Funding for maintenance and utility costs will be apportioned between WCPSS and WTCC and supported with annual, county appropriations. The center will expand the number seat capacity in a number of technical programs and serve the southeast part of Raleigh, a high-need area.

WTCC will offer the following partial certificates and diplomas at this location:

- Fundamentals of Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration; Comfort Cooling, Electricity, and Basic Service Technology (Certificate: C35100HS)
- Fundamentals of Biopharmaceutical Technology: Safety, Best Practices, and Controls (Certificate: C20180HS)
- Collision and Refinishing Technology (Diploma: D60130)
- Collision and Refinishing Technology (Certificate C60130)
- Cosmetology (Diploma: D55140HS)
- Residential and Commercial Wiring (Certificate C35130HS)
- Geographical Information Systems Fundamentals: Digital Creation and Manipulation of Space (Certificate: 40380HS)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (Certificate: C45480)

- Introduction to Plumbing Techniques: Rough-in and Trim-out Procedures (Certificate: C35300HS)
- Welding Essentials: Symbology, Cutting Processes, and Metal Arc Welding Basics (Certificate: C50420HS)
- Introduction to Simulation and Game Development: Art Fundamentals and Design (Certificate: 25450HS)

**Rationale and Recommendation:** On February 18, 2000, the State Board adopted a policy outlining criteria for establishing off-campus centers to help ensure that appropriate geographic access is provided to community college programs and services while minimizing the unnecessary duplication and proliferation of facilities and the impact on existing college campuses and centers.

Based on staff review of WTCC's request in light of the criteria outlined in this policy, the System Office recommends approval of OCC designation subject to the conditions below. This recommendation is based on the expectation that WTCC will serve adult students at this location, thus providing improved access to students in downtown and southeast Raleigh. Providing instruction to adult students is a distinguishing characteristic of this request, as high schools where colleges provide instruction only to high school students are not typically designated as off-campus centers. Also, one of the criteria outlined in the State Board's policy is that the physical facility for the center or campus must either be owned or leased on a long-term basis by the college. While WTCC is not a direct party to the lease with Wake County, the State Board could consider the 20-year MOU as analogous agreement that establishes a long-term presence at this location.

Based on this rationale, System Office staff recommends approval of OCC designation with the condition that WTCC submit copies of the following documents to the System Office, Division of Finance and Operations, upon availability:

- Cover letter accompanying the prospectus report submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- Signed MOU with Wake County Public Schools that includes specific provisions guaranteeing WTCC access to the facility, including nights and weekends for a term of at least 10 years.

The State Board's off-campus center policy authorizes the allocation of funds to support off-campus centers that generate more than 50 BFTE. In 2009, the General Assembly eliminated this funding. If funding is restored at a future date, it is further recommended that this off-campus center only be eligible for an off-campus center allocation if the location serves more than 50 full-time equivalent adult (i.e. non-high school) students.