

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract Renewal for Moodle Hosting Services**

Request: The State Board is asked to approve an amount not to exceed \$545,000 for year two of a three year contract renewal for the Moodle hosting services contract with Remote-Learner.Net to provide Moodle learning management system (LMS) software and support services for the NCCCS colleges that choose Moodle as their primary LMS.

Background: In March 2010, the North Carolina Community College System Office decided to support two learning management systems for the 58 community colleges: Blackboard, a licensed LMS, and Moodle, an open source LMS. The NCCCS submitted a Request for Proposal on 1/20/12 for a fully managed and hosted enterprise solution for a service offering the Moodle LMS for our colleges and the contract was awarded to Remote-Learner.Net. In 2012, the Board approved funding in the amount of \$471,203.37 for the first year of the Remote-Learner.Net contract. Funding for this contract provides a 24x7x365 integrated course management solution, hosted hardware, application administration, administrator help desk support, and training to sustain the centralized Moodle implementation with the capacity to support up to three Moodle instances per college. This contract also provides consistency of services and training across the system, while still allowing branding of the online course delivery for the local college. The services are essentially delivered via the Internet as Software as a Service (SaaS) offering the computing power, data storage, and Moodle expertise that the colleges do not have or could not afford without System Office support.

Rationale: Each community college chooses the LMS that best suits the needs of that college and the learning community it serves, and the System Office supports that local choice through funding and support. NCCCS conducted a survey of the colleges to determine which colleges would be interested in the Moodle hosting services and initially twelve (12) colleges expressed interest. NCCCS conducted informational webinars and answered numerous inquiries about the new contract, resulting in more interest in the service. For FY2012-13, nineteen (19) colleges chose to move to the NCCCS Moodle Cloud contract with Remote-Learner.Net. For FY 2013-14, an additional nine (9) will be joining the contract, and one (1) leaving the contract, for a total of twenty-seven (27) colleges using the service. Colleges have been on-boarded to the Moodle cloud services based on their current contract expirations or their readiness to implement Moodle version 2.3, which requires training of faculty and staff on the functionality on that version, as well as other criteria. Training is provided in this contract renewal for faculty and Moodle administrators, and will be supplemented by training from the Virtual Learning Community for additional training as needed.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the contract by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State IT Procurement Office.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The total cost for year two, July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, is an amount not to exceed \$545,000.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is contingent upon FY 13-14 State General Fund appropriations for Learning Management Systems.

Contacts:

Dr. Sandra W. Williams
Senior Vice President and Chief of Technology
Technology Solution and Distance Learning

Wanda Barker
Executive Director, eLearning and Learning Technology System