

2015-17 BUDGET PRIORITIES

CLOSING THE SALARY GAP: Instructor and Staff Salaries

NC Community College instructor and staff salaries rank among the lowest in the southeast – near the bottom in the SREB region. We cannot be the best when our instructors are paid among the worst. We aspire to rise to a salary ranking at the middle – a spot now occupied by Mississippi.

Allow colleges to retain **\$59 million in recurring funds** now returned to the state as part of management flexibility cuts, and invest those funds in instructor and staff salaries which could improve average instructor salary by more than 5%.

2015-2016
2016-2017
(including 2015-16)

\$30 million R \$59 million R

CLOSING THE INTEREST GAP: NCWorks Career Coaches

Overcoming an “interest gap” in technical careers among young people is imperative to increasing interest and enrollment in high school to community college pathways leading to good paying jobs. Employers have expressed the need to develop a pipeline of talented workers to meet current and future workforce demands.

Appropriate **\$7 million in recurring funds over two years** to establish a fund to match business, philanthropic and local funding to place local community college-employed career coaches in high schools. The program will model successful efforts in Lee, Harnett and Chatham counties, as well as programs in Virginia and Arkansas.

\$3.5 million R \$7 million R

CLOSING THE TECHNOLOGY GAP: Equipment and IT

STEM Equipment

To prepare North Carolina’s workforce, community colleges must have current technology and equipment. As we continue to close the skills gap, colleges are placing significant emphasis on STEM programs for technicians and health care workers that lead to well-paying new jobs, but are struggling to equip shops and labs with the necessary updated equipment.

Appropriate **\$10 million in nonrecurring funds** for equipment to provide a significant infusion of funds to support new technology-based jobs.

\$10 million NR

College Information System (CIS) Modernization

NC Community Colleges operate one of the largest higher education information systems in the U.S. Our IT system must move to a new operating platform before the current platform reaches end-of-life. Before State ITS will give final approval to move to a new platform, at least half of the colleges must move to a hosted “cloud” environment, which is expected to be more technically efficient.

Appropriate **\$5 million in recurring funds** to provide support to pilot up to nine colleges in the hosted environment in FY 2015-16.

\$5 million R TBD

YEAR-ROUND FUNDING: Articulation Agreement Courses

In 2013, the General Assembly authorized colleges to teach technical education, health care, developmental education, and STEM-related courses year-round and earn FTE. Authorizing the Universal General Education Transfer Courses (UGETC) that transfer to all UNC institutions will give students additional opportunities to earn transfer credits.

(Special
Provision Only)

IN-STATE TUITION FOR VETERANS

Congress enacted legislation requiring public institutions to offer in-state tuition to certain veterans and their dependents. This mandate is expected to reduce tuition receipts by approximately \$2 million.

Carry forward and repurpose Yellow Ribbon Program funds to support the cost of charging resident tuition rates to veterans consistent with federal law. Also, appropriate **\$1 million in recurring funds in FY 2016-17** to offset the remaining impact on tuition receipts.

(Authorize
Carry-Forward) \$ 1 million R