



2019 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

(Revised 03/12/19 Short-Term Workforce \$ for Updated Enrollment Final & Hurricane Florence \$)

North Carolina's Community Colleges

- Help **700,000 students annually** achieve a better life through high-school equivalency, career & technical education (CTE), short-term workforce training, and high-quality, affordable college-transfer programs.
- Are **essential in closing the skills gap** for NC employers.
- Are a **driving force in the State's economy**. Former students contributed over \$19.6 billion in State income, and for every \$1 in State investment, \$4.10 was gained in benefits to the State -- a 14.7% ROI (2015 EMSI report).
- **BUT** continue to **suffer from approximately \$53 million in budget ("management flex") cuts** made during the 2008 recession that have not been restored, thus undercutting our efforts to prepare the State's workforce.
- Have difficulty recruiting and retaining faculty and staff. At an average of \$47,362 annually, NC Community College **faculty salaries are 41st in the nation & 28% below the national average** (based on Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) data.)

Legislative Priority	2019-2021
Fully Fund Short-Term Workforce Training. Complete funding for short-term workforce training programs to achieve full funding parity with traditional academic programs.	\$12,051,477 R*
Fund Workforce Development Focused IT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade IT system serving all 58 community colleges, including online registration for workforce development courses. • Ensure colleges have direct access to IT staff by exempting System Office IT staff from transfer to the Dept. of Information Technology. 	\$15,000,000 R*
	Statutory Change
Increase Faculty & Staff Compensation. Attracting & retaining faculty & staff to prepare North Carolina's future workforce is challenging, especially in high-demand, high-skilled areas such as nursing and the trades.	Work towards Nat'l avg.
Eliminate Barriers to Enrollment. Simplify the Residency Determination System (RDS). Community colleges are losing over 5,000 potential students annually because of an overly complex RDS system further eroding efforts to close the skills gap.	Statutory Change
Fund Workforce Focused Multi-Campuses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forsyth Tech Transportation Campus • Wake Tech RTP Campus • Richmond CC Scotland Co. Campus • Guilford Tech Aviation Campus 	\$2,266,348 R*
Stabilize Budgets for Hurricane Florence Impacted Colleges. Due to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Florence, several colleges have seen enrollment declines in Fall 2018 & Spring 2019.	\$6,757,307 NR
Expand Career Coach Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career coaches are embedded in high schools to assist students with determining career goals & identifying community college programs that align with the student's goals. Currently, there are only 64 career coaches in the entire State. These funds would provide for an additional 20-30 career coaches. • Eliminate or reduce the local match requirement for colleges in economically distressed counties. 	\$2,800,000 R*
	Statutory Change

* Recurring Funds