

INVEST IN SHORT-TERM WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS LEADING TO INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS

Fund short-term continuing education programs in high cost/high demand areas at the same rate as curriculum programs.

\$16,525,254 Recurring Funds

Increased Funding for Short-Term Workforce Training Programs Helps Business & Industry and Students.

Less Regulation: Do not have to wait for State Board of Community Colleges and accreditation agency (SACS) approvals.

Flexible Scheduling

- Colleges can start and students can complete workforce continuing education programs more quickly than traditional academic programs, enabling colleges to be even more responsive to new technologies and economic conditions.
- Scheduling can be done around the needs of business and students instead of being bound by the traditional academic calendar.

Lower Cost to Students & Families

- Continuing education fees are lower than curriculum tuition costs.
 - Curriculum Tuition: \$76/credit hour for NC residents & \$268/credit hour for non-residents.
 - Workforce Continuing Education Registration Fee: \$180 per course.
- Students would not be eligible for federal financial aid, but because of the greatly reduced cost, local scholarship programs could support many more students.

Instructional Options Based on Local Needs

- Colleges would continue to have the option to offer curriculum programs where an academic credential is required or desired by an employer for employment.
- Ensures local business & industry has quick & easy access to a highly-skilled, well-trained workforce.

MODERNIZE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM

Fund modernization of Enterprise Information Technology System.

\$15,000,000 Recurring Funds

Funding for a New IT System Increases Student Success & Outcomes & Boosts Data-Driven Decision-Making

Current IT System Used by 58 Community Colleges Is Outdated, Inefficient & At End-of-Life:

- Cannot be sustained due to age and customizations to system.
- Not user-friendly, especially for our students who increasingly want to access information on their mobile devices.
- Does not readily provide information necessary to make data-driven decisions.

Modernized IT System Will Have Long-Term Return-On-Investment

- Will increase efficiencies, reduce risks, and improve services to students, including recruitment, engagement & retention.
- Will improve information provided to key stakeholders, including the General Assembly and business & industry partners.
- Will increase data quality and data integrity.

ENSURE COLLEGES CONTINUE TO HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO IT STAFF

Exempt System Office from transfer to the Department of Information Technology (DIT).

No appropriation required.

IT Staff Should Remain with the System Office to Ensure that Community Colleges Remain Efficient & Effective

CC System Office IT Staff Critical to Statewide Community College Mission

- Community College System Office IT staff work **directly** with the 58 colleges.
- IT staff work closely with other System Office staff to ensure IT changes necessary to implement policy changes are timely implemented.

Community Colleges' IT Needs Are Unique From Other State Agencies

- Higher education IT needs and expertise are significantly different than IT needs in other State agencies.
- Community College IT staff must understand IT as it relates to student registration, financial aid, and transcripts.

CC System President & State Board of Community Colleges Should Retain Direct Control of Community College IT Assets

- Transferring System Office IT staff to DIT will put them in a Cabinet Agency and no longer under the supervision of the System President & the State Board of Community Colleges, which would be detrimental to local colleges.
- System President and State Board of Community Colleges would no longer have direct control over execution of IT priorities.
- Local community college presidents & staff will no longer be able to contact the System Office when they need IT assistance.
- IT staff at our higher education partner – the UNC System – are exempt from transfer to DIT.

INCENTIVIZE STUDENT ACCESS & COMPLETION

Lower Cap on Tuition from 16 Credit Hours to 12 Credit Hours.

\$19,306,774 Cost to the State

Capping Tuition at 12 Credit Hours Benefits Students, Their Families, and Business & Industry

Incentivizes Faster Completion

- May incentivize increased credit-hour enrollment, leading to faster completion and entry into the workforce.

Lower Costs

- Reduces costs to students and families.

Further Aligns Community Colleges with the UNC System

- Tuition at UNC institutions is capped at 12 credit hours per semester.