

THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocation for Tobacco Trust Fund Commission Grant
“Project Skill-UP”
January 18, 2019 – June 30, 2019

Request: The State Board is requested to approve \$45,000 in funding for 8 colleges. Funds will be utilized by colleges to provide scholarships for students in short-term workforce training programs and pathways leading to State or Industry recognized credentials.

Background: Project Skill-UP is a NCCCS initiative whose goal is to help individuals in North Carolina adversely impacted by changes in the tobacco-related sector of the economy. This support will provide scholarship assistance to individuals to “update” their current skills and provide them with additional marketable skills reflective of fast-growing occupations and/or new industries within their local communities.

Labor market statistics reveal an aging farming workforce, high rates of unemployment or underemployment, high rates of families living below the poverty levels, and a large number of economically distressed counties. With the decline in tobacco farming, related industries and shifts in the agriculture industry overall, access to education, occupational skills training, and targeted workshops/seminars are essential to economic stimulus and recovery in these counties.

The objectives of the project are to 1) provide short-term training programs supporting local workforce needs; 2) develop educational programs supporting diverse utilization of agriculture resources and enterprises; and 3) create education opportunities to assist small farmers in accessing new methods to support business sustainability.

Method of Allocation: A request for applications was sent to all twenty colleges with a current 2017 Tobacco Trust Fund allocation. Colleges were requested to submit applications on how funds would be used to support the objectives of the grant.

Funding is recommended for all colleges who submitted applications.

COLLEGE NAME	FUNDING AMOUNT
Durham Tech CC	\$ 3,000
Isothermal CC	\$ 6,500
James Sprunt CC	\$ 5,000
Randolph CC	\$ 10,000
Roanoke-Chowan CC	\$ 7,500
Sampson CC	\$ 5,000
Wilkes CC	\$ 5,000
Wilson CC	\$ 3,000
Total	\$ 45,000

Fund Source and Availability: The “Project Skill-UP” funds are the balance of funds available through the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission 2017 grant cycle.

Time Period: The allocation period is January 18, 2019, through June 30, 2019.

Contact(s):

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