

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Alamance Community College Request for Multi-Campus Center Approval**  
**FY 2025-26**

**Request:** The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to provide Alamance Community College (ACC) with preliminary approval to designate the Dillingham Center as a multi-campus center (MCC). The site is located at 1304 Plaza Drive, Burlington, NC. By granting preliminary approval, the State Board agrees to include the MCC funding (approximately \$637,951) for this location in its FY2025-26 budget request. Final State Board approval is contingent on the General Assembly appropriating MCC funds for the location.

**Background:** ACC purchased the 46,000-square-foot former Burlington Coat Factory building in 2008. In 2011, ACC renamed the building for J.C. and Fran S. Dillingham.

Population growth is driving the need for services at the Dillingham Center. The growth is resulting in increased demand for educational services for public safety personnel, professional services, and licensed professionals (i.e., realtors), and a growing Hispanic population. It is also resulting in increased use of testing capabilities for Human Resource Development and adult literacy. In an area of high employee demand, every educational opportunity should be open to students regardless of their location, background, or ethnicity. The Dillingham Center is integral to providing educational opportunities to all residents of Alamance County, whether for credentialing, adult learning, or personal enrichment.

The Dillingham Center's location has always been central to its importance. The Dillingham Center is more urban in population density and closer to Burlington's low-income neighborhoods compared to the more suburban feeling of the Graham Campus. The Dillingham Center houses Cosmetology, Massage Therapy, Esthetics, Nail Technology, the Small Business Center, a Single Stop office where students receive social assistance resource counseling, and Continuing Education and Community Service classes. Classes and services at Dillingham lead more directly to employment or staying employed, including adult literacy programs. The classes directly address the needs of students from lower-income neighborhoods in Burlington, including Basic Skills Plus (which includes classes in English language acquisition), Spanish conversation, citizenship preparation, high school graduation attainment, and college preparation. The Dillingham Center provides many classes necessary for obtaining and retaining professional licensure in real estate, insurance, as a notary public, and general contractor. The Dillingham Center also offers public safety continuing education for law enforcement officers, detention officers, and firefighter cadets.

Almost two-thirds of Alamance County's population lives in a narrow band along Interstate 40/85, which runs through the county and across the state. Dillingham is located along this highway convergence and brings services to the residents of this east/west growth corridor.

Furthermore, facilities at Dillingham are invaluable because they cannot be replicated at ACC's main campus in Graham. ACC's main campus continuously struggles for space and has no appreciable free space. Even after ACC completes its new Biotechnology Center of Excellence and Student Support Services buildings, instructional space will continue to be almost entirely utilized. Many of Dillingham's classes are daylong single or multi-day sessions and require dedicated rooms and space for the class duration, so scheduling around these classes is difficult. For example, Cosmetology, Esthetics, and Nail Technician—some of ACC's fastest growing curriculum and certificate programs— require 30% (12,443 square feet) of the Dillingham's total square footage and include styling stations, dryers with dryer chairs, and shampoo/styling stations. In several programs including Cosmetology, state licensing requirements mandate minimum square footages of instructional space per pupil. For example, the Criminal Justice Commission oversees the training of public safety personnel and mandates at least 20 square feet per pupil. Only the Dillingham Center can meet these space requirements for ACC.

**Rationale:** Alamance Community College provided the following justification to meet the criteria established in 1B SBCCC 200.3 for MCC designation.

**1. The MCC is in a location that provides geographic access to community college programs and services in a location within the college service area that is at least ten (10) miles from the main campus or other MCC locations or the college must provide evidence that the MCC is established in a location where the main campus or other MCC locations cannot adequately provide community college programs and services.**

The Alamance Community College Dillingham Center is located at 1304 Plaza Drive, Burlington, NC. The Dillingham Center is approximately five (5) miles from the main campus. Although, Dillingham is less than ten (10) miles away from main campus, its position minimizes the impact of transportation issues for those students who can least afford it.

The Dillingham Center sits in the midst of a rapidly growing population. Both Alamance County as a whole and Burlington—the location of the Dillingham Center—are among the fastest growing areas of North Carolina according to U.S. Census estimates. From 2010-20, Alamance County ranked 15<sup>th</sup> for the most rapid population growth (17.87%) out of the 100 NC counties. Alamance County had a population of 178,494 in 2020. In that same year, the N.C. Department of Commerce ranked Burlington as the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest growing metropolitan area in N.C. with a 6.6% annual increase. Dillingham draws students predominantly from Burlington, the County's largest city. With a population of 58,818 in 2021, Burlington has almost three times the population of the next larger city in Alamance County and comprises 35% of the County's total population.

## **2. Programs and services provided are based on evidence of student demand and needs.**

Significant student demands and needs are driving the request for multi-campus funds. Student demand comes from several sources. The NC Department of Commerce estimates that County employment will increase 38% between 2000 and 2030. Even without COVID-19 employment impacts, employers are competing for employees. In 2021, Alamance County has a low unemployment rate of 4.8%, the same as North Carolina and below the U.S. near historic low of 5.3%. Alamance County's largest employers require post-secondary credentials, which mirrors NC's estimate that 67% of new jobs will require post-secondary credentials. The County's largest employer is LabCorp, a growing international company that plays a prominent role in COVID-19 testing. LabCorp employs 3,000 people in Alamance County and these positions require post-secondary degrees. Advanced manufacturing is another growing source of employee demand in the area, with these jobs also requiring credentials beyond high school. Alamance County's second and third largest employers are the industrial and automotive equipment makers of GKN and Honda Power systems.

The programs at the Dillingham Center are among ACC's fastest growing. The Cosmetology program, only available at Dillingham is one of ACC's fastest growing and, because of its bilingual instruction, attracts a large number of Hispanic students—the County's fastest growing population.

## **3. Programs and services provided through multi-campus centers shall obtain prior approval and maintain approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and shall comply with The Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement of SACSCOC.**

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) recognized the Dillingham Center as an off-campus instructional site in May 2008. ACC is approved to offer programs at this location and additional programs may be provided with no further site notification or approval. The Dillingham Center has been included as an off-campus instructional site in every SACSSOC review since 2008, including the College's 2014 Compliance Certification and its 2019 Fifth-Year Report. No negative SACSCOC recommendations have been noted.

## **4. County government provides support for maintenance and operation of the MCC physical plant.**

Alamance County commissioners have long supported ACC's activities. The County currently

provides \$4,161,365 in annual appropriations to support both Graham and Dillingham facilities, including utilities, maintenance, and other costs. The College provides police protection during school hours, landscaping, cleaning, repairs, and Internet access/computer services. Since ACC purchased the Dillingham building, the County has increased overall financial support by \$1,505,653 (or 57%) while the total square footage of ACC grew by 40%.

Further evidence of the County's support was evident in the recent bond efforts. In 2018, the County Commissioners added a school bond referendum to the November ballot. The referendum included \$39.6 million in new building construction for the College. The voters overwhelmingly passed this bond. Steve Carter, Vice Chair of the County Commissioners, also serves on ACC's Board of Trustees—further strengthening the connection between the county government and ACC.

**5. The college has developed an instructional program and services plan including, but not limited to a description of programs, staffing, and instructional support functions.**

The Dillingham Center is incorporated into ACC's strategic plan. ACC elicited broad-based input from internal and external stakeholders in the plan's development. Dillingham faculty and staff have participated in the planning process. The plan will inform departmental goals and guide the distribution of resources over the next three years. The Vice President of Workforce Development, who oversees the Dillingham Center, is a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and of the ACC President's Cabinet, and advocates for the needs of Dillingham students. ACC's Executive Vice President manages the development of the strategic plan. The Dillingham Center is also a component of ACC's Facilities Master Plan, which proactively plans for future building needs including renovation, expansion, and new structures.

Additionally, each ACC program has a five-year review to establish and monitor goals such as enrollment and retention. New programs and classes for the Dillingham Center are proposed and approved much more quickly than for curriculum and can be proposed by instructors, department heads, directors and deans, and administrators. The Executive Vice President, who is one of four members of the President's Executive Committee, has ultimate responsibility for classes and programs at the Dillingham Center. This high-level committee allocates funds and approves significant actions at the College. In addition, several of the programs at the Dillingham Center have industry advisory committees or professional affiliations that ensure the programs' effectiveness.

Dillingham has a permanent staff of 25 including the Vice President of Workforce Development, two Student Services Managers, a Department Head, a Small Business Center Director, an Occupational Extension Coordinator, an Occupational Program Director, a Clinical Instructional Coordinator, five instructors, ten administrators or administrative assistants, and public safety

staff who provide full-time coverage. The campus has computer labs, staff and student lounges, classrooms, a testing center, and a Single Stop office. Students can pay bills, register for classes, receive academic and financial aid counseling, and attend classes at the Center. A representative from the College's Human Resource Department is on-site once a week

**6. The multi-campus center does not have a significant negative impact on institutions contiguous to the MCC.**

The areas along the I-40/85 corridor between Durham and Greensboro are experiencing rapid population growth which helps to alleviate concerns about student competition. Since the Dillingham Center opened approximately 15 years ago, none of the contiguous community colleges have complained or even noted any impact on their enrollment numbers. The closest facilities from other community colleges are east and west of Dillingham along I-40. Going east, the Orange County Center of Durham Technical Community College is 23 miles away. Going west, the Greensboro satellite campus of Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) is 19 miles away. Both facilities have Adult Literacy programs and some public safety and licensure programs similar to those at Dillingham. Yet, the strong local demands for these services have resulted in no concerns about Dillingham from the other community colleges.

**7. Students enrolled at a MCC must be able to complete at least one associate degree at the MCC.**

ACC's fastest-growing programs include the two offered in Cosmetology—the Associate of Applied Science Degree and the Certificate. Both programs can only be completed at the Dillingham Center. The Cosmetology Associate Degree program ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in ACC's fastest-growing programs over the last five years, and the associated FTE and unduplicated headcount more than doubled. In addition, while the Esthetics and Nail Technician Certificate program was not established five years ago, it has garnered 25 FTE in 2022.

**8. Evidence that the duplication of instructional support and other cost expenses are justifiable from cost effectiveness and quality of support services perspectives.**

The duplication of instructional support and other costs are necessary to support the students at the Dillingham Center.

1. The large number of students and the rapidly increasing programs at the Dillingham Center is such that they require their own services.

2. Space limitations at the Main Campus necessitate the holding of classes, and hosting of their requisite support services, at the Dillingham Center.
3. Several programs, such as Cosmetology, have equipment needs that are only met at the Dillingham Center, so students must go there for instruction.
4. The Dillingham Center is near many of Burlington's poorest neighborhoods, which also have fewer County services nearby. The location of the Dillingham Center thus minimizes the barrier to educational opportunities that would otherwise exist for students who lack transportation. For example, Alamance County Salvation Army is only 1.8 miles away from the Dillingham Center and is a 5-minute drive; the city center and central bus transfer hub is 2.5 miles away and is a six-minute drive; the Burlington Housing Authority is 2.8 miles away and is a 7-minute drive; and the Dream Center (a community education and activities center used mainly by Black and Hispanic families) is 3.5 miles away and is a 9-minute drive. This proximity is also essential for the clients of the Cosmetology classes because they routinely ride public transportation from assisted living facilities. In addition, Cosmetology and other classrooms cannot be used for other purposes due to the public health regulations for those programs.
5. The workforce development classes often require all-day sessions over consecutive days and are impossible to accommodate in the tightly scheduled classrooms on the main campus.
6. Many of the Dillingham Classes have strict space requirements for student instruction. The law enforcement classes have minimum square footage per pupil requirements that are mandated by the Council of Justice Commission. The Fire Academy Office of the Fire Commission also has strict space requirements.

Regarding quality of instruction, all classes at the Dillingham Center are held to the same high standards as the Graham campus. All faculty have the same credentials standards. ACC's administration routinely monitors quality metrics on teacher evaluations, student retention, licensure test passage, and other key measures.

**9. The MCC must enroll a minimum of 300 budget FTE via traditional, blended, or hybrid instruction originating from and delivered at the MCC location.**

The table below shows that the Dillingham Center had 460 FTE in the latest reporting year. This exceeds the 300 FTE minimum for Alamance Community College to qualify for multi-campus funding. Furthermore, Dillingham's FTE has exceeded that minimum for four of the last five years. The only year that did not make the threshold was 2020-21.

	<b>FY 2019-20</b>	<b>FY 2020-21</b>	<b>FY 2021-22</b>	<b>FY 2022-23</b>	<b>FY 2023-24</b>
<b>Curriculum</b>	117.47	134.91	117.47	79.1	181.5
<b>Continuing Education</b>	136.76	90.32	143.92	137.0	142.4
<b>Basic Skills</b>	147.54	21.22	66.65	101.5	136.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>401.77</b>	<b>246.45</b>	<b>328.04</b>	<b>317.6</b>	<b>460.6</b>

Source: NCCCS Institutional Class Reporting (ICR), FTE by location

**10. The physical facility or facilities for the MCC must either be owned or leased on a long-term basis by the college.**

The College owns the Dillingham Center building and land. As mentioned previously, it was purchased in 2008.

**Contact:**

Dr. Phillip Price, Ed.D., CPA  
Vice President and CFO  
Business and Finance Division