

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Allocations for Virtual Learning Community Centers
FY 2025-26

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve \$650,000 to renew funding for three existing Virtual Learning Community (VLC) Centers: The Professional Development Center at Wake Technical Community College (\$210,000), the Technology Center at Fayetteville Technical Community College (\$145,000), and the Quality and Assessment Center at Surry Community College (\$295,000) for FY 2025-26. The Quality and Assessment Center funds consist of \$150,000 for operational costs and \$145,000 for collaborative projects that are the combined efforts of all three centers.

Strategic Plan Reference: Goal 3: Student Success

Provide resources inside and outside the classroom for all students to successfully enroll, persist, and complete education or training in a chosen career path.

Strategy: 3.2.3

Background: The VLC is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) to increase the quality and availability of online learning and support services for the benefit and success of distance learning students. The VLC began in 1999 as a collaborative process for developing online course content, which was supported by the 58 community college presidents.

The role of the VLC expanded in 2006, when VLC strategic objectives moved beyond course development to bring about change and raise the bar for distance learning across the state. Centers were created to support professional development, technology enhancement, quality and assessment. The VLC Professional Development Center at Wake Technical Community College (WTCC) coordinates efforts to deliver the training opportunities necessary to deliver online courses and programs based on sound pedagogy and the latest technology tools. The VLC Technology Center at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) coordinates a vetting process of learning technologies to address the rapid changes in online course delivery. The VLC Quality and Assessment Center at Surry Community College (SCC) coordinates the research and documentation of distance learning standards, guidelines, and best practices for online course delivery, as well as course development and needs assessment for distance learning resources. In May 2011, the State Board of Community Colleges approved the proposal to make Wake Technical, Fayetteville Technical and Surry Community Colleges the three VLC Centers.

Rationale: The VLC plays a significant role in implementing system-wide initiatives, such as accessibility compliance, curriculum improvements, course redesign for core courses identified on the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement, content and course development for NCCCS grants and North Carolina government agency courses; and projects in the 2+2 eLearning Initiative.

Funding for all projects for the course redesign, content development, and special initiatives are routed through the Quality and Assessment Center at SCC for distribution of contracts and/or duties for fulfillment of special projects' needs. This center is tasked with the coordination of efforts by all three centers. By coordinating initiatives of NCCCS that affect distance learning programs, the VLC provides a higher return on investment of System resources and is the vehicle to improve the scalability of these efforts.

Each VLC community college is allocated an operational budget to cover salaries, benefits, travel, supplies, equipment, software, and other project materials. The remaining funds for projects or content development will be allocated to SCC, which serves in a fiduciary capacity for managing all project funds for the VLC. Course development, editing, and helpdesk support are coordinated through the Quality and Assessment Center at SCC.

Community College	VLC Center	Allocation
Wake Technical	Professional Development	210,000
Fayetteville Technical	Technology	145,000
Surry	Quality and Assessment	150,000
Surry, Administrative Manager	Collaborative Projects	145,000
	TOTAL	\$650,000

The following VLC 2024-25 project highlights are provided:

- Digital Navigator Essentials: (Instructor course, completed and piloted) 78 course completions across 20 colleges.
- Digital Navigator Essentials (Spanish): Instructor course content is complete.
- HEA 3121 NC Community Health Worker: Completed course.
- 7 Steps to Get Hired: The Keys to Building Your Future: (Partners on Golden LEAF Foundation grant – NCCCS/VLC, NC Association of Workforce Development Boards, ncIMPACT/UNC School of Government, Subject Matter Experts from Community Colleges) 437 total enrollments, 123 course completions.
- NCEdge Director Training Course (est. completion date 5/31/25).
- H5P Project: Software application that creates interactive videos, presentations, and course content.
- RLS 3700 Real Estate Prelicensing – 2024 course: updated 3/4/25 (additional updates due 6/30/25).
- ACC 3240 Municipal Finance Course: updated 2/26/25.
- Professional Licensure Program Packets: 78 downloadable packets for state authorization compliance.
- HoTT Training (Hybrid and Online Teacher Training): 62 certifications.

- Professional Development: Webinars: 64 webinars which included series on teaching with AI in specific disciplines, using AI tools and resources, and other innovative applications, 2,523 participants, 58 Community Colleges and System Office.
- Professional Development: 8 onsite college workshops, 450 participants.
- Online Learning Innovations Summit 2025, 6/17/25 – 6/19/25, Surry Community College.
- On-Demand Resources: 94 titles, 538 requests for downloads, 58 community colleges and System Office.
- Quality Matters Training: 14 webinars, 125 participants, 109 certifications for Applying the QM Rubric, 9 Peer Reviewer Certifications, and 4 Master Reviewer Certifications.
- Math Accessibility Guide, Third Edition: 58 downloads.
- VLC Course Downloads: 281 (7/1/14 – 4/16/25), 115 courses using Blackboard LMS, 166 courses using Moodle LMS.
- Online college courses posted to VLC website: 17,578 (4/30/25).
- Online college programs posted to VLC website: 2,806 (4/30/25).

Projects planned for 2025-26:

- Deliverable by July 31 for a collaborative, cross-divisional plan to:
 - Better align professional development opportunities with relevant System Office partners (NC Student Success Center, Programs & Student Services team, Marketing & Communications, etc.);
 - Streamlined communication plan of PD opportunities to the 58 colleges; and
 - Development of a searchable professional development system-wide database to aid users in finding relevant training opportunities.
- Five Professional Development Series:
 - AI Data Governance and Security
 - Copyright and AI
 - AI Tools: Empowering Faculty with Practical Tools for Teaching and Efficiency
 - Microsoft AI certification for faculty and staff covering AI in instruction and administrative tasks.
 - AI and New Authentic Way to Assess Students
- New course development:
 - SOC 210 Introduction to Sociology
 - PSY 150 General Psychology
 - Additional course development based on system and local college priorities.
 - CCR cybersecurity course
- Course Development Initiated in 2024-25:
 - Digital Navigator Essentials (Spanish): Course pilot.
 - ENG 025 College English Skills
 - MAT 025 Concepts of Essential Math/Stat
 - MAT 035 Concepts of Algebra
 - BSP 4012: Pathway to College Success

- INS 3121 Life Insurance
- INS 3122 Accident & Health/Sickness Ins
- INS 3127 Claims Adjusting
- INS 3129 Property & Casualty Insurance
- State Authorization – Additional Professional Licensure and Certification Program Packets.
- Implementation of WCAG 2.2 in April 2026 for accessibility compliance.
- Quality Matters Training and Certifications.

Allocation Amount and Time Period: Funding from state appropriations is available for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Fund Availability: Funding is contingent upon the availability of FY 2025-26 State General Fund appropriations and the execution of Memorandums of Understanding with the colleges.

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