STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

KRISTIN WALKER
STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

November 23, 2026

TO: Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

FROM: Kristin Walker

SUBJECT: Notification of Grant Award – North Carolina Community College System

Pursuant to GS 143C-5-4(b)(9), the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) submits the attached Notification of Grant Award – Boost NC: Enhancing an Evidence Based Student Success Model Through AI-Enabled Advising and Work-Based Learning – from the federal Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education for consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

The grant totals $3,994,583 and is available from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2030.

Grant Details:

- **Authority:** Title VIII, Section 873 of the Heigh Education Act of 1965, as amended 20 U.S.C. 1138-1138d
- **Purpose:** The project builds on the proven Boost student success model which has been shown to significantly increase graduation rates. Boost NC will strengthen the model by combining personalized advising, AI-supported student intake and services, and high-quality work-based learning opportunities connected to in-demand careers and transfer pathways. The project will also provide support to colleges implementing the model and conduct a rigorous evaluation to determine which approaches are most effective in improving student success and completion.
- **Budget Period 1 Award:** $3,994,583
- **Budget Period:** October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
- **Project Period:** October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2030

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Neisner by email at Jennifer.Neisner@osbm.nc.gov.

Thank you.

CC: Chairs, Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget
Chairs, House Appropriations Committee
Fiscal Research Division

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Notification of Grant Application/Award, FY 2026-27

Office of State Budget and Management 984-236-0600.

Instructions at https://www.osbm.nc.gov/budget/common-agency-requests/agency-reporting-grant-applicationsawards

Please indicate if Notification is for a GRANT APPLICATION or GRANT AWARD ☐ Application ☑ Grant Award

1	Department	Community Colleges System Office
2	Division *(except in DHHS)*	
	DHHS only, choose division from drop down list	
3	Contact person *(name)*	Brian Merritt
4	Phone number	828-442-5954
5	E-mail	merrittb@nccommunitycolleges.edu
6	Funding Entity (grantor)	US Department of Labor-Federal
7	CFDA number	84.116
8	Grant title	**Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE)**
9	Grant application deadline *(MM/DD/YY)*	
10	Start date of grant *(MM/DD/YY)*	10/01/26
11	End date of grant *(MM/DD/YY)*	09/30/27
12	Application type	New
13	Is this grant already in agency's base budget?	No
14	Budget Code the grant will be expended in *(XXXXX)*	
15	Budget Fund *(XXXXXX or NA)*	
16	Is there a state matching requirement?	No
17	If yes, what is the matching requirement?	
18	If yes, what is the source of state funds being used to match grant funds.	
19	Is there a maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement?	No
20	If yes, what is the MOE?	
21	Is an additional General Fund appropriation required to meet the state match requirement?	No
22	Will any of these funds be passed through to local governments or non-state entities?	No
23	If yes, identify affected entities by type	
24	Will additional state funds be required to continue the program if grant expires or is reduced?	No
25	If yes, is this a requirement of the grant?	
26	Are new FTEs funded through the grant?	No

		SFY 2025-26 Actual	For 2026-27 Complete either Authorized or Proposed: SFY 2026-27 Authorized	SFY 2026-27 Proposed	SFY 2027-28 Proposed	SFY 2028-29 Proposed	SFY 2029-30 Proposed
27	If yes, give the number by type for each year: *Permanent*						
	Time-Limited						
28	Amount of grants funds **applied** for in each year						
29	Amount of grants funds **awarded** in each year		$922,382.59		$1,272,141.05	$1,068,524.69	$731,536.00

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30 Purpose of grant or amendment	Boost NC is a four-year partnership between the North Carolina Community College System and Durham Technical Community College to help more commuity college students stay enrolled, succeed, and complete their programs. The project builds on the proven Boost student success model (https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/boost), which has been shown to significantly increase graduation rates. Boost NC will strengthen the model by combining personalized advising, AI-supported student intake and services, and high quality work-based learning opportunities connected to in-demand careers and transfer pathways. The project will also provide support to colleges implementing the model and conduct a rigorous evaluation to determine which approached are most effective in improving student success and completion.
31 Comments	Signed by: Wanita Bledsoe 8AFB889793EA47C... "!) #!#' DocuSigned by: Phillip Price E330210CC8CE433... "!) #!#'

Return completed form as email attachment and indicate in message that proper agency sign-offs have been obtained. Contact your OSBM budget analyst if you have questions.

Department of Labor

Notice of Award

Award# 26D60FP000007-01-00
FAIN# 26D60FP000007
Federal Award Date: 09/29/2026

Recipient Information

1. Recipient Name
North Carolina Community College System Office
5024 Mail Service Ctr
Raleigh, NC 27699-5099
9197337051626

2. Congressional District of Recipient
04

3. Payment System Identifier (ID)
1561288079A5

4. Employer Identification Number (EIN)
561288079

5. Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
809784648

6. Recipient's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
G1DDLK6DL1S3

7. Project Director or Principal Investigator
Dr. Brian Merritt
merrittb@nccommunitycolleges.edu
919-807-6982

8. Authorized Official
Dr. Chanell Butler
butlerc@nccommunitycolleges.edu
919-807-6986

Federal Agency Information
Office of Postsecondary Education

9. Awarding Agency Contact Information
Nemeka Mason-Clercin
Education Research Analyst
nemeka.mason@ed.gov
202-987-1340

10.Program Official Contact Information
Robyn Wood
robyn.wood@ed.gov
(202) 987-1577

Federal Award Information

11. Award Number
26D60FP000007-01-00

12. Unique Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN)
26D60FP000007

13. Statutory Authority
Title VIII, Section 873 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1138-1138d; Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations

14. Federal Award Project Title
Boost NC: Enhancing an Evidence-Based Student Success Model Through AI-Enabled Advising and Work-Based Learning

15. Assistance Listing Number
84.116

16. Assistance Listing Program Title
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

17. Award Action Type
New

18. Is the Award R&D?
No

Summary Federal Award Financial Information

19.	**Budget Period Start Date** 10/01/2026 **- End Date** 09/30/2027	
20.	**Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated by this Action**	$3,994,583.00
	20a. Direct Cost Amount	$3,994,583.00
	20b. Indirect Cost Amount	$0.00
21.	Authorized Carryover	$0.00
22.	Offset	$0.00
23.	Total Amount of Federal Funds Obligated this budget period	$0.00
24.	**Total Approved Cost Sharing or Matching, where applicable**	$0.00
25.	**Total Federal and Non-Federal Approved this Budget Period**	$3,994,583.00
26.	**Period of Performance Start Date** 10/01/2026 **- End Date** 09/30/2030	
27.	Total Amount of the Federal Award including Approved Cost Sharing or Matching this Period of Performance	$3,994,583.00

28. Authorized Treatment of Program Income
ADDITIONAL COSTS

29. Grants Management Officer – Signature
Robyn Wood

30. Remarks

All application components submitted for the ED-GRANT-26-038 grant solicitation are hereby incorporated by reference.

Applicant responded to Absolute Priority 1: Early Phase.

Department of Labor

Notice of Award

Award# 26D60FP000007-01-00
FAIN# 26D60FP000007
Federal Award Date: 09/29/2026

Recipient Information

Recipient Name
North Carolina Community College System Office
5024 Mail Service Ctr
Raleigh, NC 27699-5099
9197337051626

Congressional District of Recipient
04

Payment Account Number and Type
1561288079A5

Employer Identification Number (EIN) Data
561288079

Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
809784648

Recipient's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
G1DDLK6DL1S3

31. Assistance Type
Discretionary Grant

32. Type of Award
Other

33. Approved Budget
(Excludes Direct Assistance)

I. Financial Assistance from the Federal Awarding Agency Only
II. Total project costs including grant funds and all other financial participation

a. Salaries and Wages	$0.00
b. Fringe Benefits	$0.00
c. Total Personnel Costs	$0.00
d. Equipment	$0.00
e. Supplies	$0.00
f. Travel	$0.00
g. Construction	$0.00
h. Other	$3,994,583.00
i. Contractual	$0.00
j. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	$3,994,583.00
k. INDIRECT COSTS	$0.00
l. TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET	$3,994,583.00
m. Federal Share	$3,994,583.00
n. Non-Federal Share	$0.00

34. Accounting Classification Codes

FY-ACCOUNT NO.	DOCUMENT NO.	ADMINISTRATIVE CODE	OBJECT CLASS	ASSISTANCE LISTING	AMT ACTION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	APPROPRIATION
0501742626BR20260174090426MJG300A0000AOWI00AOWI00	FP00000722Y	FP2	410023	84.116	$3,994,583.00	01742626BR