**5/4/2022**

**Pilot Program Serving Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Students**

**(Brunswick Community College & Catawba Valley Community College)**

The purpose of the pilot program is to convene the two partnering colleges to research best practices and conduct a needs assessment to identify effective programming, wraparound services, outreach and marketing, assisted technology, benefits counseling and to identify community, state, and federal funding resources to facilitate credential attainment, increased employment opportunities, and improve overall engagement in college. Partnering colleges will identify a team to conduct a pre‐convening program profile (template provided by System Office), detailing existing programs and services for IDD students. Colleges will then participate in a convening and develop a needs assessment tool of programmatic best practices for providing vocational training for individuals with IDD. Catawba Valley Community College will serve as the lead institution. The lead college will secure a national subject matter expert to facilitate the convening and to guide the development of the needs assessment.

**Post-Convening** The  lead  college  will  prepare  a  report  of  the  findings  and  deliverables for use by the System.  To support this work, the System Office will add a time‐limited position for program support, provide professional development to colleges for career pathway development, disseminate best practices, budget monitoring, data tracking and reporting, and to assist colleges to identify credentials leading to competitive employment, and to explore funding sources to sustain programs for students with IDD.

**Background**

The 2021 Appropriations Act (Session Law 2021180) appropriates funds to establish a pilot program at least at two community college campuses  for training programs that provide  opportunities  for  a  micro-credential  or  other  credentials  that  lead  to  increased  employment  outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The pilot program shall offer training and educational components that include improving employability skills and provide on‐the‐job training and apprenticeships with business and industry for individuals with  IDD. The goal  of  the  pilot  program  shall  be  to inform  community  colleges and address  cross‐ departmental  supports  within  the  individual  community  colleges  on  programs  for  individuals  with IDD related to at least the following:

(1) Establishing best practices for providing vocational training for individuals with IDD.

(2) Providing financial and benefits counseling.

(3) Developing strategies on integrating assistive technology.

4) Maximizing access, with supports, to credential and degree programs, including micro‐ credentials that are established by the State Board.

(5) Identifying methods to increase orientation and integration of individuals with IDD into the college community to the greatest extent possible.

 (6) Determining a needs assessment, marketing, and evaluation  to  serve a broad array of individuals  with  developmental  and  other  similar  disabilities  or  learning  challenges  to assure adequate demand for new or existing programs.

**Rationale**

Two colleges were selected as exemplary representatives of College and Career Readiness career  pathways programs designed for IDD students. The SO team selected these colleges through a rigorous  assessment of colleges identified as providing career pathways for students with disabilities and  intellectual disabilities.

**Community College Pilot Identification.**

The rigorous selection process began with a scan of all community college providers who specifically  described activities and services specifically serving students with learning disabilities and other special needs.  This scan identified 35 colleges. Further analysis identified programs that had career pathways  specifically for students with learning disabilities including intellectual disabilities.  A deeper assessment  identified programs that had comprehensive programs, including collaboration with local services and  other college support teams, good performance and comprehensive outreach and intake processes.

Three colleges were selected to request detailed descriptions of their programs. After final review,

two colleges were selected to be IDD Pilot Colleges. These 2 colleges have a proven track record

to serve the IDD student population in a comprehensive approach and have the capacity to

serve as demonstration models.