

3/26/2024

North Carolina General Assembly
Legislative Building
16 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Representatives,

Leaders in education across our state are determined to prepare North Carolina's future workforce for success through rigorous programs that help individuals develop necessary skills to carry on the success of the state's many industries. From elementary school to community college to four-year universities, educators are furthering the state's ability to produce successful young people who are ready to enter society as hardworking employees with desirable skills. To see these efforts prove to be successful, the N.C. Community College System (NCCCS) recognized a need for modernization of community college funding and thus created the proposed Propel NC plan.

North Carolina's Southeast (NCSE) strongly supports these efforts as our organization recognizes the need for funding to build a workforce that will fill gaps in high-wage careers and address labor shortages across the 20-county southeast region and the state. Across the nation, North Carolina has been recognized as the top state for business due to its business growth, job creation and business climate. It's crucial that our leaders search for ways to continue that success. Currently, the state's funding formula limits campuses' ability to embrace the rapidly changing world around them. In turn, this limits our younger generations' abilities to keep up with the changing needs of future employers.

Propel NC is not only good for business, but good for students looking to have a prosperous lifestyle and participate as contributing members to society. The short-term credentials emphasized by this plan prioritizes getting students into the workforce by allowing them to acquire the skills needed to lead them to opportunities for family-sustaining careers. This will lead to young adults staying in the communities that raised them and in turn, raising another generation of workers to sustain North Carolina's economy.

It is for these reasons that at our most recent Board of Directors meeting, members voted unanimously to sign a resolution to encourage state legislative leaders to enact its provisions at the earliest opportunity. We thank you for your time and hope you choose to support this much needed update and propel North Carolina to the next level.

Sincerely,



Steve Yost, President