



NORTH CAROLINA  
**DEPARTMENT of  
COMMERCE**

Roy Cooper  
GOVERNOR

Machelle Baker Sanders  
SECRETARY

May 2, 2024

Dr. Jeffrey A. Cox  
President, NC Community College System  
200 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

Dear Dr. Cox,

North Carolina Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies (NC TOWERS, “the Task Force”), reviewed the NC Community College System’s proposed funding model, Propel NC, and supports the labor-market-driven model that prioritizes coursework aligned with high-demand and high-wage jobs.

There are currently 27 offshore wind projects under development along the Atlantic Coast. North Carolina is uniquely positioned to attract a significant portion of the jobs and investments to the State from these projects due to our geography, business climate, and existing leadership in advanced manufacturing. The Governor directed NC TOWERS to identify additional strategies to develop the State’s offshore wind supply chain, workforce, and infrastructure to secure our presence in the lucrative offshore wind industry.

The [Task Force’s 2022-2023 Annual Report](#) includes several recommendations to position North Carolina to capitalize on opportunities in offshore wind, including the need to increase capacity for education, training, and workforce development programs offered by North Carolina’s colleges, universities, and public school systems (*NC TOWERS Annual Report, Rec. 4, pg. 9*).

The Propel NC funding model fulfills the above recommendation and will better equip community colleges with the resources to prepare North Carolina’s workforce for high-demand jobs in the offshore wind industry. Additionally, the funding model responds to North Carolina’s business and workforce needs as determined by labor market data compiled by the NC Department of Commerce. NC TOWERS supports the new funding formula and the strategy to continue to partner with the NC Department of Commerce to identify workforce sectors of high priority to receive an initial funding allocation increase.

The proposed funding model directs additional funding per student enrolled in continuing education and curriculum coursework related to engineering, advanced manufacturing, trades, and transportation, which align with a majority of the occupations within the offshore wind supply chain ([Building North Carolina’s Offshore Wind Workforce, pg. 99](#)).

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NC TOWERS and the Workforce Development Subcommittee support investing in the NC Community College System's Propel NC funding model at the level indicated in [Governor Cooper's Recommended FY2024-2025 Budget Adjustments](#) and invite you to share our support during your advocacy efforts.

Sincerely,

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Marqueta Welton  
NC TOWERS Chair  
NC Commerce Chief of Staff

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Perry Harker  
NC TOWERS Workforce Development  
Subcommittee Chair  
Vice President, Carteret Community College