



To: North Carolina General Assembly Fiscal Research Division Team
From: Dr. Carol S. Spalding, President, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Date: January 15, 2025

Memo: Report on Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Biotechnology Training Center

This memo is being submitted in response to the North Carolina Community College System Office's request for a report on the Rowan-Cabarrus Biotechnology Center to provide to the NC General Assembly Fiscal Research Division Team. The original budget language from the 2006 state budget allocated funds for the "*Kannapolis Research Campus – Funds the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Biotechnology Training Center and Greenhouse at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. Funds will be used for equipment, faculty and staff, building operations and lease expense.*"

The College's Research Campus facility has never included a greenhouse.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Biotechnology Center Summary

The Rowan-Cabarrus Biotechnology Building is located on the North Carolina Research Campus (399 Biotechnology Lane, Kannapolis) and is home to many of the College's science-based curriculum classes, adult career services, and a robust growing nursing program. The 62,332 sq. ft. education building is in year 15 of its 20-year lease and includes classrooms, science laboratories, nursing labs, offices, multi-use rooms, and student spaces with a library. The building provides spaces for students to experience real-life training in science-related courses and nursing.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Biotechnology building served 530 individual students, which is comprised of 430 curriculum students and 80 continuing education students. The College also served 376 adult students with career services such as resume and job application assistance through the R3 center.

Most of the courses taught at the Biotechnology Building are designated as Tier 1A or 1B by the North Carolina Community College System which indicates that their course content corresponds to serve "priority occupations that have documented skills gaps and pay higher wages."

BioWork Certificate: In January 2022, biopharmaceutical company Eli Lilly announced an investment of over \$1 billion to create a new manufacturing site that will boast nearly 600 jobs in Concord, NC. This is the first biopharma company to locate within the region and it is expected to be the first of many future companies to locate in the area.

In response to this major economic development announcement, the College established the BioWork Certificate training course – an eight-week certificate program that equips students with the foundational skills needed to begin a career as a process technician for a biotechnology, pharmaceutical, or chemical manufacturing company.

This new program has already graduated 68 students, many of whom have already been hired by Eli Lilly.

Rowan-Cabarrus Nursing Programs

The Biotechnology building offers four nursing education programs which demonstrates the College's strong commitment to ensuring our region is prepared with the healthcare workforce it needs. These four programs include the Practical Nursing program (PN), the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program, the Licensed Practical Nursing to Associate Degree Nursing Bridge program, and a Nurse Aid licensure program. Over the past three years, the program has grown almost 50 percent and has maximized the space allotted at the Biotechnology building. The College is adding an evening option in the 2024 Spring semester to meet the demands of industry and our student waitlist.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the nursing programs celebrated the completion of the following students:

- Associate Degree Nursing: 58
- Associate Degree Nursing LPN to ADN: 50
- Practical Nursing (LPN): 17

Every student who graduated from the College was hired immediately into a full-time career.

Science-Based Transfer Courses: Many students use this building to take Uniform General Education Transfer Component (UGETC) courses, which play a critical role in providing students with a strong foundation in essential knowledge and skills, ensuring a seamless transition between institutions.

National Science Foundation & National Institute of Health Grants: Over the past five years, in partnership with UNC-C, the College has been a part of a National Science Foundation Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM) grant and a National Institutes of Health Bridges to Baccalaureate (B2B) grant that are housed at this building. Both grants leverage the unique position of the building on the Research Campus to carry out project activities and provide students with a unique experience.

Annual Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Open House

The Biotechnology Building is home to the College's annual "STEM Open House," a longstanding tradition that has taken place in the College's Biotechnology Building for the past 12 years. The College partners with the N.C. Science Festival, a month-long celebration across the state intended to bring science to life for children and adults to showcase STEM in education. This is a two-day event that invites the public to attend on the first day, while on the second day, middle and high school students attend with their schools. The annual event draws an average of 500 visitors of all ages to enjoy fun, interactive exhibits related to science, technology, engineering, and math.

Community Outreach

The Biotechnology Center also opens its meeting spaces to several local and state partnerships. Examples of those organizations include the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC), numerous State of NC organizations, local workforce development agencies, etc. In addition, the multi-purpose space hosts graduations and pinning ceremonies to celebrate student completion.

R3 Career Services (Refocus, Retrain and Re-employ)

The College's R3 Career Services program began in response to the Pillowtex manufacturing company closing its doors nearly 20 years ago. The program is a well-known resource in the community for adults who are seeking a career change and need to upskill their talents to make a job transition. These fee-free classes are offered online and in-person and help students with job applications, resume building, and more. The program has partnerships with several local organizations, including The Opportunity House, Rebuild 2.0, the Food Stamp Program for Cabarrus Department of Social Services, and the North Carolina Manufacturing Institute.

Budget Summary

The N.C. The General Assembly report requested an update on the Biotechnology Center budget to include equipment, faculty/staff, budget operations, and the lease expense. The chart below details those expenses for the 2024 fiscal year. As noted below, 84% of the budget is spent on the building itself via the building lease, insurance, tax, repairs and maintenance, and utilities. Approximately, 16% of the budget is used to support College personnel who are located at this facility and help maintain the building's operations and programming through salaries and benefits, supplies and materials, and travel and transportation.

Equipment for the building is purchased through the College's normal equipment budget allocation process and is expended with state equipment funding.

Budget Description	Budget Amount
Building Lease, insurance, tax	\$2,509,591
Contractual Services	\$111,295
Repairs and Maintenance	\$114,490
Salaries and Benefits	\$576,973
Supplies and Materials	\$16,332
Travel and Transportation	\$6,615
Utilities	\$172,376
TOTAL	\$3,507,672

Photos of the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College North Carolina Research Campus Location



LEFT: Outside photo of the College's location on the North Carolina Research Campus

RIGHT: Student in a science lab in the North Carolina research campus building





LEFT: Nursing students learning with a high-tech simulator manikin

RIGHT: The College's first BioWork program graduates



LEFT: Annual STEM Open House that hosts nearly 500 people per year