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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
THE GOLDEN L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), INC.**

The regular meeting of the Programs Committee of the Board of Directors of The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc. (the “Foundation”), was noticed for and convened on April 1, 2026, at the NC State Plant Sciences Building in Seminar Rooms A, B, and C located at 840 Oval Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606. Committee members participating in the meeting were Barry Dodson, Michael Easley, Jr., Don Flow, Jim Harrell, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Laurence Lilley, Brian Raynor (Acting Chair), Bobbie Richardson, David Rose, Jarette Sampson, Tom Taft, and Bill Webb. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/ General Counsel of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/ Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Marilyn Chism, Director of Programs of the Foundation; Ginger Mustamaa, Director of Programs Administration of the Foundation; Jenny Tinklepaugh, Communications Manager of the Foundation; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/ Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and Byron Kirkland, legal counsel to the Foundation. Jenny Tinklepaugh served as secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Kirkland called the roll of the Programs Committee members.

In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Raynor served as Acting Chair, called the meeting to order, declared a quorum to be present, and identified Ms. Tinklepaugh as secretary of the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the open and closed sessions of the February 4, 2026 meeting of the Programs Committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked members of the Committee to disclose individual interests related to matters to come before the Committee.

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In accordance with the Foundation's Conflicts of Interest Policy, the following standing disclosures and disclosures related to matters to come before the Committee were made or confirmed:

- Mr. Lilley disclosed that his son is Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and Mr. Lilley will abstain from the discussion and vote regarding projects for which Golden LEAF knows the Department of Commerce will or may provide funding.
- Mr. Webb disclosed that he serves as Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority and will abstain from the discussion and vote regarding projects for which the Rural Infrastructure Authority is or may be a funder.

In these minutes, where it is noted with respect to a matter that a director "would abstain" or "abstained," the subsequent vote is subject to all such abstentions.

Mr. Raynor informed members of the Committee that the Committee would organize its discussions and actions regarding proposals and other items by reference to the recommendations sheet distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. The recommendations sheet reflecting the actions of the Committee is included in these minutes as Attachment A.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the applications received in the Economic Catalyst Program. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the Economic Catalyst application, which is item numbered 1. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote. Mr. Webb declared a duality of interest because he serves as Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority and abstained from the discussion and vote.

A motion was made to enter closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) to prevent the disclosure of information relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the Foundation. The motion was seconded and carried.

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Following the closed session, the Committee resumed its meeting in open session.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Chism and Mr. Lord to present the applications received in Stage Two of the Open Grants Program. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Stage Two applications received in the Open Grants Program that are items numbered 2-4 and 6-7. The motion was seconded and carried.

After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the Stage Two application received in the Open Grants Program that is item numbered 5. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote. Mr. Webb declared a duality of interest because he serves as Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority and abstained from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Chism and Mr. Lord to present the applications received in Stage One of the Open Grants Program. After the presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Stage One applications received in the Open Grants Program, which are items numbered 8-20. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the application received in the SITE Program. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board defer the SITE Program application, which is item numbered 21 on Attachment A. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the previously deferred application received in the Community-Based Grants Initiative in the North Central Prosperity Zone. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action

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reported on Attachment A regarding the application received in the Community-Based Grants Initiative in the North Central Prosperity Zone, which is item numbered 22. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the statement of work received from the North Carolina Community College System for the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship (2026-2027). After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the statement of work received for the Golden LEAF Community Colleges Scholarship Program, which is item numbered 23. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Ginsberg to provide an update on the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative. She reported that the initiative was launched in fall 2021 to give Golden LEAF Scholars the opportunity to identify and participate in internships within rural communities, often in their home counties. She explained that the program allows scholars to work with eligible employers, including businesses, nonprofits, and government entities, who agree to host students and meet program requirements, while Golden LEAF funds both program administration and student wages. Ms. Ginsberg also shared that internships are designed to align with each student's field of study and support their intention to return to rural North Carolina. Participants earn \$16 per hour in their first year, \$17 in their second year, and \$18 in their third year, with internships typically lasting 8 to 12 weeks between May and August. She reported that since its launch in summer 2022, a total of 144 scholars have participated in the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative (RII).

Ms. Ginsberg reported that for the 2025 RII, Golden LEAF implemented process improvements, including transitioning the application system in-house, resulting in cost savings and more efficient communication with scholars. She shared that for the summer 2026 cohort, 71 scholars are participating, including 46 first-year and 25 returning students, across 52 new host sites and 19 returning sites. Ms. Ginsberg reported that students represent a range of fields such as health sciences, nursing, education, and business. Example host sites include UNC Health Rockingham, Richmond Community College, the City

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of Morganton, Meridian Engineering, Global TransPark Economic Development Region, Onslow Water and Sewer, Kinston Community Health Center, Robeson County Government, a law firm, and a dental office.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Ginsberg to present the modifications received in state appropriated programs. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the modifications received for the state appropriated programs, which are items numbered 24 and 25. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present grant modification requests. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the modifications requests that are items numbered 26 and 28. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the modification received that is item numbered 27. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Lilley declared a duality of interest because his son serves as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce and abstained from the discussion and the vote.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Ginsberg to present the items in the Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative. After the presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the modification received in the Initiative, which is item numbered 29, and regarding the recommendation to decline all pending applications in the Initiative, which is item numbered 30. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor declared the Programs Committee meeting to be in recess until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at the same location.

The meeting of the Programs Committee reconvened at the North Carolina State Plant Sciences Building in Seminar Rooms A, B, and C located at 840 Oval Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Committee members participating in the meeting were Barry Dodson, Michael Easley, Jr.,

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Don Flow, Jim Harrell, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Laurence Lilley, Brian Raynor (Acting Chair), Bobbie Richardson, David Rose, Jarette Sampson, Tom Taft, and Bill Webb. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/ General Counsel of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/ Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Ginger Mustamaa, Director of Programs Administration; Jenny Tinklepaugh, Communications Manager of the Foundation; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/ Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and Byron Kirkland, legal counsel to the Foundation.

Mr. Kirkland called the roll of the Programs Committee members.

Mr. Raynor called the meeting to order and declared a quorum to be present.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Ginsberg to give an update on the Golden LEAF Schools Initiative.

Ms. Ginsberg shared that staff has visited seven schools participating in the Golden LEAF Schools Initiative, and Board members including Dr. Richardson, Mr. Keller, and Mr. Lilley have joined some visits. Ms. Ginsberg asked Board members attending the schools to share their experiences. Board members expressed positive feedback for the initiative, noting the engagement of teachers and school administrators and of students. Following comments, Ms. Ginsberg reported that the major activities in the Initiative since the update at the last Programs Committee meeting include improving coordination of all activities and setting baseline data. She reported that attendance at activities has been strong across all districts and there are no issues to report. Ms. Ginsberg noted that the second cohort of Personalized Competency-based Education schools will be selected in May 2026 following the same process used before.

Ms. Ginsberg reported that NCDPI provides Golden LEAF monthly reports on the Initiative that include information on professional development delivery and attendance, individual school data and progress monitoring reports, DPI/school/district communication efforts, math formative assessment data, coaching logs, achievements/challenges, and any anticipated budget changes. She reported that coaching

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efforts remain on track, with partners Marzano, Open Up Resources, and NCDPI delivering expected support, while evaluation systems have been strengthened through redesigned school dashboards that centralize key data such as walkthroughs, formative assessments, and goal tracking. Ms. Ginsberg added that Marzano Research has begun conducting High Reliability Schools (HRS) focus groups with teachers and school leaders and that these focus groups are gathering practitioner feedback on instructional practices and school conditions to inform both ongoing support and future evaluation efforts.

Ms. Ginsberg reported that math instruction continues to improve as formative assessment practices become more aligned and data-driven, supported by coaching focused on reasoning, problem-solving, and pacing. A challenge is the implementation of the Zearn tool which will replace Khanmigo and offer additional math support.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to give an update on the NC Ag Leads Initiative's Imagine Ag Day. Mr. Lord asked M. Lee and Mr. Lilley, who attended the Imagine Ag Day, to share their thoughts about the event. They provided positive comments about Imagine Ag Day, noting that the program was strong and focused on key elements affecting North Carolina agriculture, and that there was good participation from important constituents of the agriculture sector. Following their comments, Mr. Lord reported that Imagine Ag Day emphasized the need for data to advance agricultural policy, with GroundTruthNC identified as a resource moving forward. He also reported that the event included information on the ongoing efforts to strengthen Cooperative Extension. Mr. Lord provided the update that a proposal to support the development of workforce data is expected at the June meeting, while work continues on strategies to drive agricultural innovation, particularly by better connecting ag tech developers with farmers to address critical needs across North Carolina, including exploration of a state-focused model. Mr. Flow discussed the possibility of a North Carolina ag venture fund that would focus investments from universities and key supporters of North Carolina agriculture in North Carolina ag companies.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the proposed FY27 Programs budget. Mr. Lord reported that the proposed FY27 Programs Budget would include \$45,943,933 from the Foundation's corpus and

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\$17.5 million of funds appropriated to Golden LEAF by the North Carolina General Assembly from the Master Settlement Agreement for a total of \$63,443,933. Mr. Lord shared that the proposed budget allocates \$41,000,000 to the core programs (Open Grants, Economic Catalyst, Scholarships and SITE programs), and \$22,443,933 to strategic initiatives. Notable changes from the FY26 Programs budget include increasing the SITE Program by \$9 million to \$15 million in anticipation of the launch of a new shell building opportunity, elimination of the CBGI after completion of the most recent cycle, and increasing funding for strategic initiatives by approximately \$5.5 million. The Committee agreed by consensus to move forward with inclusion of the proposed FY27 Programs budget in the Foundation's FY27 budget, which the Board will consider at its June meeting.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present information regarding proposed funding opportunity for shell buildings. Mr. Lord reported that the recommendation of staff is to add construction of shell buildings as a phase of the SITE Program beginning in FY27. Program parameters are under development but include maximum award amount of \$2.5 million per building. He reported that this amount could be combined with up to \$1.5 million in clearing and grading and utility improvements through the existing SITE Program development phase, for a total of up to \$4 million per site, not including due diligence phase expenses. Mr. Lord shared that key considerations for adding the shell buildings to the SITE Program would be funding levels, required due diligence requirements, delineating shell building costs, restrictions on transfer/use of proceeds, match requirements, and public/private partnerships. Mr. Lord reported that staff intends to bring forward a formal recommendation at the June Programs Committee meeting and to launch the program in early FY27.

Mr. Lord then discussed planned and potential special initiatives for FY27. These include: considering 3-4 projects that meet the criteria for the SPARC projects; funding for NC Ag Leads implementation, including ag tech/innovation strategies; Golden LEAF Schools follow on projects; continuing to implement the healthcare leverage strategy through support of major capital projects at community colleges and universities; collaborating with the state's Rural Healthcare Transformation

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effort; and supporting expansion of FQHCs and FQHC look-alikes, and rural practice preservation. He added that some strategic initiatives are already in progress, including potential additional funding for the ECU Brody School of Medicine. He also added that staff is developing a potential initiative focused on small business and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Ginsberg presented more detail regarding the small business and entrepreneurship strategy. She reported that following guidance from the Board at its retreat in January, staff has worked on a hub and spoke model for small business support and development, which staff is referring to as a regional constellation framework. Through this framework, networks of universities, community colleges, economic developers, capital providers, and community organizations would operate in coordinated roles to support outcomes such as company formation, job creation, capital access, industry partnerships, and community capacity building. Ms. Ginsberg shared that the approach is particularly geared toward supporting small businesses, especially those with 10 or fewer employees, that are positioned for growth.

Ms. Ginsberg reported that the strategy is still under development, but staff has gathered some anticipated elements for presentation to the Committee. She said that NC IDEA is proposed to serve as the project administrator, overseeing grant management, coordinating coalition activities, and supporting implementation across regions. The framework would emphasize strong regional leadership and collaboration, requiring a credible regional champion to lead each regional coalition, supported by partners with clearly defined roles and a demonstrated ability to execute a data-driven plan. She added that coalitions are expected to reflect cross-sector engagement and build on existing collaboration. She noted that this model aligns with national best practices in ecosystem development, incorporating elements of network-based economic development, collective impact backbone organizations, regional innovation clusters, and state-led innovation networks. Ms. Ginsberg reported that funding would be distributed through a competitive, multi-cycle RFP process. Though the proposed budget is still under development, the effort is expected to include up to five regional champions eligible for awards of up to \$500,000 each over two years, and additional coalition partners receiving up to \$250,000 each. Total

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anticipated funding would be \$10.5 million, covering both programmatic expenses and administrative costs, over multiple cycles. The initiative is expected to be refined through continued collaboration with NC IDEA and presented at future Programs Committee meetings, with a goal of launching in calendar year 2026.

Committee members engaged in discussion and asked questions. Members noted several models in other states, including Virginia and Tennessee, that could help inform Golden LEAF's development of this opportunity. Following discussion, Ms. Ginsberg stated that staff would continue to develop the concept and would prepare a white paper including information on best practices and on efforts in other states.

Mr. Lord then discussed efforts to support collaboration among community colleges. He shared that staff has been engaged in conversations with community college presidents experienced in implementing collaborative projects across colleges. Mr. Lord added that these strategies could likely be funded under the Open Grants Program and not require a separate initiative. Mr. Lord reported that staff is continuing to develop strategies for engagement with community colleges and offering further clarity on guidance for Golden LEAF priority projects.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord and Ms. Ginsberg to present items under Other Business.

After a presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding authority for staff to manage inactive applications and to invite the Forward Fund to submit a comprehensive application through the SPARC Initiative, which are items numbered 34 and 35. The motion was seconded and carried.

After a presentation, recommendation, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the performance agreement requirement for Golden LEAF's grant to the Town of Bladenboro for Project Jay, which is item numbered 36. The motion was seconded and carried.

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After a presentation, recommendations, and discussion, a motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the budget modification for Golden LEAF's grant to Methodist University for the Methodist University Cape Fear Valley School of Medicine, which is item numbered 37. The motion was seconded and carried.

With no other business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Jenny Tinklepaugh, Secretary of the Meeting

Read and approved:

Brian Raynor, Acting Chair of the Programs Committee

**Attachment A
Programs Committee Recommendations**

#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
1	Wilson Economic Development Council (Wilson EDC)	Wilson Corporate Park Sewer Upgrade	\$1,492,520.00	<p>a) Golden LEAF funds are to be used for expansion or improvement of public sewer infrastructure reasonably necessary to serve Johnson & Johnson or its affiliates or subsidiaries (the "Company") and that have the capacity to serve the Company and others.</p> <p>b) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee providing evidence that the Company has agreed to allow the Grantee and Golden LEAF to verify the Company's job creation and retention figures, wages, and benefits by reviewing NCUI-101 forms and/or through other means satisfactory to Golden LEAF.</p> <p>c) Release of funds is contingent on the Grantee providing evidence of an inducement agreement, performance agreement, or similar agreement demonstrating that the Company is obligated to create at least 288 new jobs with average annual wages of at least \$104,921. The deadline for creation of the new jobs must be no later than December 31, 2030. The jobs must be located at the new manufacturing facility the Company will construct in Wilson County, and must be in addition to the jobs associated with the Company's job creation project in Wilson that was announced in 2024. The agreement must include appropriate consequences should the Company fail to satisfy its obligations. The President of Golden LEAF may approve minor variations from these requirements.</p>

Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
2	Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	White Lake Sewer	Defer	
3	Dunn Police Athletic & Activities League, Inc.	Dunn PAL Campus Renovation and Career Readiness Expansion	\$0.00	
4	Jackson County Economic Development	Webster Village	\$500,000.00	
5	Metropolitan Community Health Services, Inc.	Aurora Healthcare Expansion Initiative	\$400,000.00	
6	Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. (RMOIC)	Building Economic Futures: OIC's Regional Workforce and Business Development Hub	\$0.00	
7	Robeson Community College	Advanced CTE Equipment Initiative	\$500,000.00	
Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
8	5&2 Training Institute Inc	Automotive Technician Workforce Development Program	Y	
9	Appalachian Mountain Health	Building Back Better: A Healthcare Investment that Creates Jobs and Restores Hope	Y	
10	Firsthealth of the Carolinas Inc	FirstHealth Moore Regional-Hoke, Sterile Processing Department Expansion	Y	
11	Harnett Regional Jetport	Harnett Regional Jetport Corporate Area Development	Y	

12	Martin, County of	Martin County Paramedics & Quick Response Vehicles	Y	
13	Meredith College	Addressing North Carolina's Nursing Shortage Through Simulation-Based Technology	Y	
14	Wingate University	Rural Telehealth Workforce Center	Y	
15	ElevIQ Foundation Inc	Rural Workforce Capability Alignment & Career Pathways Initiative	N	
16	High Country Council of Governments	High Country Circular Economy Catalyst	N	
17	National Center for Construction Education Research	High School Builder Program launch in five NC schools	N	
18	Neighborhoods Hands	Community Workforce Development	N	
19	North Carolina State University	WNCStrong Youth Service Corps	N	
20	Still Us Foundation	Still Us Rural Dementia Workforce Initiative	N	
SITE Programs Proposals				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmtc Rec	Comments Special Conditions
Development				
21	Surry County Economic Development Foundation	Twin Oaks Business Park	Defer	Release of funds is contingent on Golden LEAF approval of a legal mechanism or structure that will provide assurances acceptable to Golden LEAF that the property to be improved with Golden LEAF funds will be used for industrial purposes.

CBGI Proposals				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmtc Rec	Comments Special Conditions
22	Working Landscapes	Soil Amendments and Value-Added Enterprise (SAVE)	\$0	Project endorsed by Warren County.
Golden LEAF Scholarships				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmtc Rec	Comments Special Conditions
23	North Carolina Community College System	Golden LEAF Community Colleges Scholarship (2026-2027)	Award a programmatic contract of \$3,060,000	<p>a) The term of the contract is 13 months, commencing on the Award Date. Golden LEAF may extend the term of the Contract by providing notice in writing. All project-related expenses must be incurred during the term of the contract. The provisions of this Agreement that by their nature extend beyond the term of the contract will survive the end of the term of the contract.</p> <p>b) \$2,980,000 of contract funds are to be used for scholarships and up to \$80,000 may be used by NCCCS for administrative costs of implementing the project and coordinating the activities of the participating campuses.</p> <p>c) Scholarship funds may be awarded on an annual basis or for shorter periods at a maximum amount of \$2,250/year for curriculum students and \$1,850/year for continuing education students.</p> <p>d) NCCCS agrees to submit to Golden LEAF for approval policies and procedures governing the Program that include: 1) the student eligibility and selection criteria and process; 2) the process for allocating (and reallocating) funds among participating colleges; 3) acceptable uses of funds; and 4) marketing and branding guidelines for participating colleges. These policies and procedures must reflect the</p>

				<p>following: i) a strategy for reallocating scholarship funds among colleges to ensure, to the extent practical, funds are allocated to meet demand; ii) priority funding may be made available to colleges in counties determined by Golden LEAF; iii) colleges may retain and award scholarship funds throughout the school year (subject to the reallocation process described above) with unused funds to be returned to NCCCS by June 25, 2027; iv) colleges must participate in a program management conference with NCCCS; v) at least 25% of funds must be reserved for students enrolled in a Workforce Continuing Education pathway/course that is offered for at least 96 contact hours and leads to a state and/or industry-recognized credential; vi) funds may be used for the total cost of attendance; vii) campuses must use reasonable efforts to ensure that Golden LEAF scholarship funds do not displace state or federal grants available to the student.</p> <p>e) NCCCS must follow Golden LEAF brand guide requirements for use of Golden LEAF logo and must receive Golden LEAF approval for use of Golden LEAF logo on marketing materials.</p> <p>f) NCCCS must collaborate with Golden LEAF on program-related outreach and communications including communications directly with Golden LEAF scholars.</p>
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State Appropriated Programs Modification Requests				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
24	City of Elizabeth City	Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Replacement	Y	Increase award from \$996,300 to \$1,459,407 (increase of \$463,107).
25	City of Washington	Washington Medical District Storm Water Project	Y	Increase award from \$3,030,000 to \$4,030,000 (increase of \$1,000,000).
Grant Modification Requests				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
26	Appalachian State University	Preparing the Rural Nursing Workforce: Lab Expansion at App State Hickory Campus	Authorize the President and Chair of the Board, with the assistance of counsel, to approve modifications to the Grantee Acknowledgment and Agreement.	
27	Brunswick County	Highway 74/76 Industrial Park Water Project	Y, with conditions	Approve the following conditions and authorize the President to implement them through appropriate agreements and/or modifications to the Grantee Agreement for the project: 1) If the Epsilon Advanced Materials (the "Company") does not announce its intent to move forward with the project by March 31, 2027, the Golden LEAF award will be terminated without further action by Golden LEAF. For the Company's announcement to satisfy this condition, it must include a date certain by which the Company expects to begin construction of its facility and/or when it expects to begin production at its facility. The announcement must also confirm that the project will be of substantially the same scope as

				<p>originally announced.</p> <p>2) If the Company satisfies the requirement that it announce its decision to move forward, the Company must make material progress on construction of the facility within one year of that announcement or the award will be terminated without further action by Golden LEAF. Material progress on construction of the facility includes, at a minimum, significant site work conducted by the Company at the Brunswick County site.</p> <p>3) No Golden LEAF funds will be released until the Company has incurred construction expenses of at least \$100 million at the project site. Those expenses must be incurred no later than June 30, 2029. If the Company has not incurred at least \$100 million in construction expenses at the project site by June 30, 2029, the award will be terminated with no further action by Golden LEAF.</p> <p>4) If the conditions above are satisfied and Brunswick County is eligible to receive Golden LEAF funds for the project, Golden LEAF funds may be used to reimburse Brunswick County for expenses incurred constructing public infrastructure consistent with the approved project budget, even though construction may have been completed at the time of the reimbursement.</p>
28	Caldwell County	Foothills Regional Airport Industrial Park Due Diligence	Y	Increase award by \$26,490 to \$76,490 to allow additional work regarding potential cemetery on the property.

Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative				
#	Organization	Project Title	Programs Cmte Rec	Comments Special Conditions
29	Baptists on Mission	Helene Relief Project	Y	Increase award from \$3,690,000 to \$4,570,000 (increase of \$880,000)
30	Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative Applications	N/A	Y	Decline all pending applications in the Hurricane Helene Relief Initiative, a list of which was provided in the Board materials.
Strategic Planning				
#	Topic		Comments Special Conditions	
31	Golden LEAF Schools Update		Staff will provide an update regarding Golden LEAF Schools, including information from recent reports submitted by DPI and updates from in person visits.	
32	NC Ag Leads Update		Staff will provide an update regarding NC Ag Leads, including next steps regarding potential funding for ag innovation and workforce development.	
33	Preliminary Programs FY27 Budget/Strategic Planning Update		Staff will present a proposed preliminary FY27 Programs budget following the guidance regarding determination of availability of funds provided by the Board at the January retreat. Staff will also present updates on strategic planning topics discussed at the January retreat including shell buildings, community college collaboration, and support for small businesses.	
Other Business				
#	Topic		Comments Special Conditions	
34	Authority to Manage Inactive Applications		Authorize staff to remove draft applications that are more than 60 days old from the grants portal and to require applicants to submit a Stage 2 application within two Board meetings of receiving an invitation to submit or be subject to administrative declination.	
35	The Forward Fund		Invite a comprehensive application through the SPARC initiative.	
36	Town of Bladenboro/Project Jay		Accept OneNC agreement as satisfying performance agreement requirement in the Golden LEAF Grantee Agreement. This agreement requires the company to meet the county average wage to receive incentives, which is \$46,852.	

37	Methodist University/Methodist University Cape Fear Valley School of Medicine	Authorize the Chair of the Board and the President to approve a budget modification of approximately \$1.6 million, shifting funding from current approved items to costs for equipment used for ultrasound training for students, exam rooms used for training with standardized patients, and a simulation area for student training.
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