

North Carolina and The Southern Regional Education Board

This report details North Carolina's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement efforts in member states. North Carolina receives a number of general services, plus access to programs funded by grants, contracts and fees for specific services.

Leadership

SREB Board

Pat McCrory, Governor

Dan J. Forest, Lieutenant Governor

Linda P. Johnson, State Representative

Howard N. Lee, President, Howard N. Lee Institute for Equity and Opportunity in Education

Adeniyi Ojutiku, Associate Professor of Health Education, University of Phoenix

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Tamara Barringer, State Senator, Cary

Hugh Blackwell, State Representative, Valdese

D. Craig Horn, State Representative, Weddington

Linda P. Johnson, State Representative, Kannapolis

Dan Soucek, State Senator, Boone

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

North Carolina information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for North Carolina. Reports published in 2014:

North Carolina: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

North Carolina is making progress on implementing the readiness recommendations.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

Publications

In January 2015, SREB published ***Benchmarking State Implementation of College-and Career-Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and Related Reforms***. Six reports make up the set covering 14 states: a cross-state findings report that describes trends across the states — plus five reports with detailed state profiles by topic.

The reports note North Carolina as a ***leading state*** for accountability; and a ***strong state*** for standards and assessments, aligned teaching resources, professional development and teacher evaluation.

Support for States

In August 2014, SREB convened leaders from eight SREB states, including a team from North Carolina, and national experts in Atlanta to share information about and resources for implementation of college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB's benchmarking staff provided information and support to state leaders on the implementation of standards and related reforms during fall 2014 and winter 2015.

Benchmarking staff presented on implementation of college- and career-readiness standards to:

- SREB Board and Legislative Advisory Council members, including attendees from North Carolina, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting in June.
- Legislative and governors' staff, including attendees from North Carolina, in October 2014.

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

North Carolina sent a team to the conference, and a **fact sheet for North Carolina** includes population trends; state and federal policies; and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

Representatives from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction **co-presented recent findings on classroom observations** with members of the SREB educator effectiveness team during the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness meeting held by the Council of Chief State School Officers in Atlanta in April.

Staff facilitated several breakout sessions during the March 2015 Advisory Meeting for the SREB Benchmarking State Implementation of College and Career Readiness Standards project.

Strategic Data Fellows working at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction participated in a webinar SREB staff held on state teacher equity plans in February.

Representatives from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction shared their experience building and implementing educator evaluation systems and networked with other SREB state representatives at **SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** in Atlanta in February.

The educator effectiveness team refreshed the **educator effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January, which allows North Carolina policymakers to track bills across eight topics including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Staff presented on educator evaluation at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meeting in December.

The team released the **Elements of Evaluation interactive database** in October, which allows North Carolina policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

Staff presented information on educator evaluation systems at Business for Educational Success and Transformation in North Carolina (BEST NC) meetings last July and November.

SREB staff provided **direct technical assistance** to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction on design and implementation of its new evaluation system, including five separate state visits in November, December and March. Throughout the year, SREB staff provided technical assistance to North Carolina Department of Public Instruction staff who are leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to North Carolina:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015 and will publish its report later in 2015.

North Carolina members of the Commission:

Tamara Barringer, State Senator

John Pruette, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning, Department of Public Instruction

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EarlyLearning

Career and technical education

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

Explored how optional career pathway programs of study can help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills needed to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and degrees to secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's final report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems, increase post-secondary credential and degree attainment, and ensure their future economic security.

North Carolina members of the Commission:

June Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Hugh Blackwell, State Representative

Wesley Beddard, Associate Vice President for Student Learning and Success, North Carolina Community College System

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CTECommission

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Charged with recommending postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

North Carolina member of the Commission:
Walter Dalton, President, Isothermal Community College

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Affordability

SREB Community College Commission

Charged with recommending statewide strategies to strengthen the role of community and technical colleges in raising educational attainment in Southern states.

North Carolina member of the Commission:
Scott Ralls, President, North Carolina Community College System

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CommunityColleges

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

Custom information by request of North Carolina policymakers and staff:

Legislator: comparison of assessment information

Legislator: charter school facilities financing

Legislative staff: teacher tenure and contracts in Texas

Staff: school finance

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

SREB and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction have partnered to roll out literacy and mathematics strategies known as the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) and the Mathematics Design Collaborative (MDC) to up to 78 middle grades and high schools per year for three years for a total of 235 schools. Cohort 1 began with 62 schools, and SREB will include 94 schools in the second cohort, which will begin in August. SREB worked with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to identify former district superintendent Donna Peters to help coordinate the effort.

Literacy Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students learn the literacy skills of college- and career-readiness standards. Teachers learn to design assignments that engage students to learn subject content, while advancing reading and writing skills. SREB's innovative training starts with exemplary teachers, who then work with other teachers to help them adopt the strategies.

North Carolina's LDC participation in 2014-15:

Teacher experts trained by SREB: **234**

Local trainers trained by SREB: **16**

Number of schools: **62**

Fairgrove Middle School in Fairmont is featured for its Literacy Design Collaborative implementation in a September 2014 SREB publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*.

Mathematics Design Collaborative

A teaching framework to help students understand basic mathematics concepts, become fluent with mathematics procedures, and develop the reasoning to apply them to solve problems. MDC teachers use formative assessment lessons — a hybrid of assessment and instruction — to help students master college- and career-readiness standards. SREB's innovative training builds the capacity of lead teachers to become trainers of other teachers.

North Carolina MDC participation in 2014-15:

Teacher experts trained by SREB: **149**

Local trainers trained by SREB: **14**

Number of schools: **62**

The **Hoke County School District** in **Raeford** is featured for its Mathematics Design Collaboration implementation in a September 2014 SREB publication of vignettes, *Students Step Up When Teachers and Leaders Transform Classrooms*.

More information: Dan.Mollette@SREB.org | (404) 962-9623 | SREB.org/LDCMDC

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta, July 15-18.

North Carolina attendees at the July 2014 conference: **303**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attend to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta.

In North Carolina, an invitation to apply for a stipend of \$183 for a school team of three to attend the SREB College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference was sent to 156 schools that are participating or plan to participate next year in SREB professional development programs centered on college- and career-readiness literacy and mathematics standards.

North Carolina attendees at the July 2014 conference: **88**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/NetworkingConference

National Professional Development Workshops

Intensive two- to three-day workshops that address current priorities for school improvement. Attendees leave with a plan of action for their schools. During the 2014-15 school year, SREB offered the Aligning High Schools and Middle Grades With Emerging Priorities for College and Career Readiness workshop and the National Technology Centers That Work Leaders' Forum.

North Carolina teachers, counselors and leaders who participated: **10**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/PD

Principals

Learning-Centered Leadership Program

Works with district, state and university partners to prepare aspiring principals and school leadership teams to lead school reform to ensure that students are ready for college and careers. This program offers training, guidance and technical assistance.

North Carolina attendees at the 2015 Annual Leadership Forum: **1**

More information: Jon.Schmidt-Davis@SREB.org | (404) 879-5591 | SREB.org/Leadership

Counselors

College and Career Counseling Initiative

Training to improve the effectiveness of teachers, counselors and college access program staff to prepare students from low-income families for postsecondary education. A 2014 survey of more than 500 enrollees found that 92 percent are changing their practice as a result of the training; 93 percent are implementing action plans developed in the program; and 95 percent would recommend the training to colleagues.

North Carolina is one of 14 participating states around the nation.

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/1663

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

SREB Readiness Courses

Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

North Carolina was one of the five original members of the consortium of states established to develop and implement the SREB Readiness Courses, contributing a team of talented writers from K-12 and higher education.

North Carolina conducted a small pilot in 2013, and 21 high schools implemented Essentials for College Mathematics (the North Carolina version of Math Ready) in the 2014-15 school year.

SREB conducted seven regional Math Ready training meetings across the state in summer 2014 for about **350 teachers**. SREB is working closely with North Carolina state education agencies to offer teacher training in summer 2015 for the mathematics Readiness Course.

Ready for high school

SREB is now working with states to develop courses for the transition from middle grades to high school. The courses will be available for underprepared eighth- and ninth-grade students starting in 2016-17.

Middle grades and high school teachers from **North Carolina** are participating in the development of the new courses.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

Advanced Career

A new approach to career and technical education (CTE) that combines college-readiness academic content with a sequence of four courses designed around hands-on, project-based assignments. The aim is to prepare more students for as many career options as possible in emerging high-demand, high-wage fields such as health informatics, and energy and power.

As a member of the Advanced Career (AC) consortium, North Carolina is one of nine states that worked with SREB and local higher education and economic development leaders to develop pathways. North Carolina partnered with SREB to develop the **project management** pathway. **Thirty-nine North Carolina schools** have implemented AC project management since 2013-14.

In fall 2015, five schools will implement AC pathways developed by other states:

Hendersonville High School and **Parkwood High School** are adopting clean energy technology.

West Mecklenburg High School is implementing global logistics and supply chain management.

Cuthbertson High School is adopting health informatics. **Sun Valley High School** is implementing aerospace engineering.

SREB's Rhenida Rennie gave an overview of the AC philosophy, approach and available programs at the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Association Summer Conference in Greensboro in July 2014.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/AC

State Leaders' Forum

Convenes state education leaders and policymakers to consider policies and leadership to create and sustain quality career and technical education. Co-sponsored with the State Consortium for Improving High School Career and Technical Studies.

North Carolina attendees at the 2014 State Leaders' Forum: **2**

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

North Carolina is a member of the High Schools That Work state network, in which **31 schools** were active in 2014-15.

SREB provided staff developers to support a HSTW data workshop and the state's Career Technical Conference in 2014 and the Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement in 2015.

Jo Anne Honeycutt, Director, Career and Technical Education, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, serves on the HSTW Board.

Chris Droessler, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, is the HSTW State Coordinator.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Contracts for Direct Support

Schools, districts and states contract with SREB for targeted school improvement services, such as on-site coaching, technical assistance and professional development.

In North Carolina in 2014-15, one school district contracted for a full-time SREB consultant to support all middle grades and high schools in the district and provide 30 days of training; two other districts contracted support for 14 middle grades and high schools. SREB delivered 32 days of coaching and 32 days of training in these districts.

More information: Cindy.VanBuren@SREB.org | (803) 984-5986 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys, to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

In North Carolina, **14 schools** participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

Special Board Meeting

SREB's HSTW initiative held a special board meeting in March devoted to strengthening the HSTW instructional design to build college and career pathways that link high schools, workplace learning, and community and technical colleges. The goal is to increase the percentage of young people who earn a credible credential by age 25.

North Carolina participant in the March 2015 HSTW Board meeting:
Jo Anne Honeycutt – North Carolina Department of Education

Making Middle Grades Work

Engages state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in the middle grades. The network includes 663 schools in 20 states.

North Carolina schools active in the network in 2014-15: **16**

North Carolina schools contracted with SREB for direct services through MMGW: **21**

On-site coaching days delivered to these schools in 2014-15: **162**

Days of on-site staff development delivered to these schools in 2014-15: **77**

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 788-1235 | SREB.org/MMGW

Counseling for Careers

Helps students align career pathway programs of study to career goals, postsecondary studies and employment. SREB works with districts and schools so that teachers, counselors, administrators, parents and community partners can advise students on career opportunities, career pathway programs of study, work-based learning experiences, postsecondary education and training opportunities.

During the 2014-15 school year, SREB provided the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction with professional development and technical assistance for 50 administrators on teacher advisement and the development of eight- and ninth-grade exploratory courses.

In **Rowland**, North Carolina, all **South Robeson High School** faculty, counselors and administrators received two days of professional development in improving academic achievement.

More information: Deborah.Bass@SREB.org | (404) 788-1235 | SREB.org/MMGW

2014 Award-Winning Schools

HSTW Platinum High Achievement Schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment, at least 85 percent of students met at least one readiness goal, one or more parts of the recommended curriculum, and at least one recommended concentration. Schools are classified as high implementation sites and met state AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following school earned the award in 2014:

Lumberton Senior High School (Honorable Mention), Lumberton

HSTW Gold Achievement Schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment and at least 50 percent of students earned the HSTW Award of Educational Achievement and at least 40 percent of career and technical education students experienced a rigorous career and technical education. Schools also met AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following school earned the award in 2014:

Southern Lee High School, Sanford

HSTW Gold Improvement Schools increased their mean score in reading, mathematics and science by at least 10 points from 2012 to 2014 on the HSTW Assessment. Schools also met AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following schools earned the award in 2014:

Fairmont High School, Fairmont

Western Guilford High School, Greensboro

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 879-5611

Higher Education Programs and Services

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided by North Carolina institutions as of April 2015: **503**

North Carolina EC Representatives:

Katherine Davis, eLearning Specialist, North Carolina Community College System

Terrence R. Scarborough, Assistant Director for Licensure, University of North Carolina
General Administration

Hope Williams, President, North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

North Carolina representatives attended the 2014 Electronic Campus Annual Meeting.

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — **SARA, or the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

North Carolina participates in SECRRRA. North Carolina will have a representative on the SREB SARA Steering Committee. SREB staff attended a North Carolina SARA workshop in March 2015.

North Carolina SARA Representative:

Tim Gallimore, Associate Vice President for Academic Planning & State Authorization, University of North Carolina – General Administration

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating agencies and their 2015-16 Data Exchange Coordinators:

University of North Carolina: Dan Cohen-Vogel, Senior Director of Institutional Research

North Carolina Community College System: Bill Schneider, Associate Vice President for Research and Performance Management

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

North Carolina leaders receive the annual ***SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report*** and the ***SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, as well as ***North Carolina: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, ***Fact Book Bulletins*** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

In North Carolina, **six institutions** participate in the Council.

Representatives from each institution:

East Carolina University: Sylvia Brown, Dean

North Carolina Central University: Ralph Rasch, Chair

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Donna S. Havens, Dean

University of North Carolina at Charlotte: Dee Baldwin, Associate Dean/Director; Elizabeth Carnegie Award Committee; 2015 Program Committee

University of North Carolina at Wilmington: Deborah Pollard, Interim Director

University of North Carolina at Greensboro: Robin Remsburg, Dean

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by North Carolina in 2014-15: **0**

2014 Institute attendees from North Carolina: **31**

Scholars North Carolina has supported since joining in 1993: **5**

Graduates since 1993: **3**

Graduates currently employed: **3**

Percent employed in education: **100**

North Carolina-supported students have attended these institutions since 1993:

North Carolina State University

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Educational Technology Cooperative

Membership group of state K-12 and higher education coordinating and governing boards representing more than 800 colleges and universities and 3,100 school districts in SREB states. The ETC focuses member agencies and state policymakers on using technology wisely, reports on educational technology topics and connects members.

North Carolina member agencies and representatives for the membership year 2014-15:

North Carolina Community College System: Katherine Davis, eLearning Specialist

University of North Carolina System: Tim Gallimore, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction: Verna Lalbeharie, Director of Digital Teaching and Learning

North Carolina sent attendees to the 2014 annual meeting, and North Carolina's ETC representatives helped determine SREB's **10 Critical Issues in Educational Technology**. Wanda Barker, former North Carolina Community College System Executive Director of eLearning and Learning Technology Systems, served on the ETC Executive Committee to guide the ETC in leveraging technologies for the benefit of students, instructional staff and support staff. (Barker now serves as director of the ETC.)

More information: Wanda.Barker@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EdTech

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

North Carolina technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$1,801,100**

More information: Camille.Martin@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1697

Go Alliance

An interstate cooperative to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school, and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. Go Alliance research, services and professional development focus on college access policy and communications strategies to motivate students to plan for and apply to college.

North Carolina participates in Go Alliance through the annual meeting and workshops that highlight best practices and aid in the replication of successful programs.

Representative:

Mark Wiles, University of North Carolina General Administration

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/GoAlliance

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region's track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.