

**DCCCD Incentive Funding  
Retention Awards  
Executive Summary**

**REPLICATION AWARDS:**

**Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs Scholarship Tracking and Review System**

Award Principal Coordinator: Rick Renshaw, DO – Financial Aid  
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Collaboration: BHC, CVC, EFC, ECC, MVC, NLC and RLC  
Award Amount; \$35,000 Award period: 1 Semester

The purpose of this award is to request the purchase of software from Think Education Solutions which is specifically designed to help Dallas County Community College District's Financial Aid Offices streamline the process of accepting and managing student scholarship applications. The STARS Online scholarship tracking and review system will allow DCCCD students to apply for several scholarships online using a web-based interface. The application data will be entered into a secure database within the DCCCD framework. The process will help students increase their funding options and get through the scholarship application process faster and easier. It will help the colleges and the foundation sort through and classify a much greater number of applications within the timeframe necessary to use the foundation scholarships to leverage new enrollments and increase retention.

There are at least 53 community colleges in Texas. A random selection of 12 of these colleges revealed that 10 out of the 12 offered students the option to apply for scholarships online. The Dallas County Community College District needs to have such a system available to its students to maintain a complete array of student financial services. This initiative of integrating a scholarship tracking and review system to improve services for our students, present and future, in the Dallas County Community College District will build upon the district's collaborative success.