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Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **North Carolina Community Colleges Celebrate Excellence *Governor James B. Hunt Receives I.E. Ready Award***

RALEIGH – NC Community Colleges honored more than 65 individuals during its excellence event, “The Great Within the 58” last night at the Jane S. McKimmon Center. The event included the presentation of the I.E. Ready Award to Governor James B. Hunt for his contributions to the establishment and growth of North Carolina's community colleges. The evening's festivities were part of a weeklong celebration of “North Carolina Community College Excellence in Education,” as [proclaimed](#) by Governor Bev Perdue.

“Since August, North Carolina’s community college enrollment has grown by 31,000 students; the equivalent of adding a college the size of N.C. State University,” said Dr. Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System. “Our colleges are at the front lines and our students are the true purpose of our existence. That’s why now, even in these tough economic times, it’s important that we recognize the excellence that takes place every day at North Carolina’s community colleges.”

Former Governor Jim Hunt received the I.E. Ready Award, the highest honor bestowed by the State Board of Community Colleges. The award was created in 1983 to recognize individuals who have made significant, statewide contributions to the establishment, development or enhancement of the N C Community College System. The award is named for the late Isaac Epps Ready, who was the first state director of the System.

In addition to Governor Hunt, recognitions included student awards for academic excellence, leadership, art excellence and exemplifying the philosophy of the community colleges. Additionally, the President of the Year, the Excellence in Teaching Award, the Staff Person of the Year and two Distinguished Partners for Excellence received awards.

Dr. William Aiken, President of Sampson Community College, [was named the System’s ninth President of the Year](#). Aiken's career in education spans 45 years, including 10 years at SCC. He

was recognized for strong leadership in growing and expanding SCC's capabilities and resources in addition to his commitment to collaboration and partnership in Sampson County. The President of the Year award was established in 2001 by the State Board of Community Colleges.

Robin Harris, Lead Nursing Instructor at College of The Albemarle (COA), [was named this year's Excellence in Teaching Award recipient](#). Established in 1985 by the State Board of Community Colleges, the Excellence in Teaching Award provides recognition to full-time teachers who exemplify the highest standards of instruction and professionalism in the classroom and who consistently demonstrate excellence in service to their colleges and communities. Harris has been the lead curriculum nursing instructor at College of The Albemarle since 2007. Prior to that, she was a recruitment and retention specialist in the division of health sciences at the college and began her educational training at COA.

Dr. James W. Kelley, Director of Admissions at Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), was the [recipient of the Staff Person of the Year Award](#). The award, established by the State Board in 2001, recognizes excellent performance and commitment to the community college mission by the non-teaching staff of the 58 institutions of the NC Community College System and the System Office. Kelley has served as Director of Admissions at FTCC since 2003. He also serves as an adjunct instructor in the Humanities Department at FTCC.

Pharr Yarns, a yarn manufacturer based in McAdenville, and Gaston College, as well as WakeMed Health and Hospitals, based in Raleigh, and Wake Technical Community College were named Distinguished Partners for Excellence. The State Board of Community Colleges established the award in November 2005 to honor an exemplary employer, business, or industry group that has demonstrated decisive involvement and a firm commitment to the professional development of its employees and/or to the development of North Carolina's workforce through its partnership efforts with one or more of the 58 community colleges. Pharr Yarns' partnership with Gaston College began in the mid-1990s and continues today through training programs that address the evolving workforce needs of the company. Wake Tech and WakeMed Health and Hospitals have formed a strong collaboration to train health care employees in fields ranging from nursing to cardio-vascular technology.

Brian Timothy Long, a Mitchell Community College student, and Chastity Amanda Holt, of Wilkes Community College, were named the inaugural Dallas Herring Achievement Award recipients. The award was established by the North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP) this year to honor the late Dr. Dallas Herring, one of the state's earliest advocates of community colleges. The award will be bestowed annually upon a current or former student who best embodies Dr. Herring's philosophy of "taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go."

Antonio McNeill, a student at Johnston Community College, is the 2010 recipient of the Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award. The award is sponsored by the NCACCP and was created in 2004 to recognize student leadership on a statewide level while also

honoring former Governor Scott, one of the earliest supporters of the system and its president from 1983 until 1994.

Fifty-eight students were recognized for Academic Excellence by their individual colleges. During her remarks to the audience, Julie Bentley, the Academic Excellence recipient from Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, said, "Returning to school after 12 years was difficult and scary, but now I know that I am on the road to accomplishing my dream of becoming a mechanical engineer." Each student received a plaque and medallion in honor of their accomplishments.

**Melissa S. Dean**, Alamance Community College  
**Mark Wayne Dooly**, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College  
**Amanda Rose**, Beaufort County Community College  
**J.L. Oxendine**, Bladen Community College  
**Wanda B. Clarke**, Blue Ridge Community College  
**Santresa S. Culpepper**, Brunswick Community College  
**Julie Bentley**, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute  
**Alec Schmitt**, Cape Fear Community College  
**Amanda Wright**, Carteret Community College  
**William Robinson**, Catawba Valley Community College  
**Jamie Yeatman**, Central Carolina Community College  
**Franck Idohou**, Central Piedmont Community College  
**Nicola Dixon Vaca**, Cleveland Community College  
**Jeffery Scott Hanes**, Coastal Carolina Community College  
**Judy Williams**, College of The Albemarle  
**Jonathan A. Irwin**, Craven Community College  
**Alison Castillo**, Davidson County Community College  
**Christopher Ryan Hart**, Durham Technical Community College  
**Dorothy A. Spruill**, Edgecombe Community College  
**Barbara Mattheu**, Fayetteville Technical Community College  
**Angela M. Rigdon**, Forsyth Technical Community College  
**Susan Canine Miller**, Gaston College  
**Deanna Nelson**, Guilford Technical Community College  
**Crystal G. Bell**, Halifax Community College  
**Dawn Salley**, Haywood Community College  
**Michael Osborne**, Isothermal Community College  
**April R. Lee**, James Sprunt Community College  
**Joshua McCune**, Johnston Community College  
**Nikki Marie Garner**, Lenoir Community College

**Jennifer Mourning-Rollins**, Martin Community College  
**Sandra Gail Parker**, Mayland Community College  
**Deborah S. Thomas**, McDowell Technical Community College  
**Tiffany Cales**, Mitchell Community College  
**Miriam McCaskill**, Montgomery Community College  
**Almonica L. Speight**, Nash Community College  
**Stephanie C. Brackin**, Pamlico Community College  
**Daniel Linville**, Piedmont Community College  
**Mark L. Benton**, Pitt Community College  
**Donna Reynolds Camp**, Randolph Community College  
**Donna Jenkins Hudson**, Richmond Community College  
**Jennifer L. Perry**, Roanoke-Chowan Community College  
**Javeed J. Jattan**, Robeson Community College  
**Khori M. Navarre**, Rockingham Community College  
**Patricia Ann Wayne**, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College  
**Elizabeth Ann Price**, Sampson Community College  
**Alison Boone**, Sandhills Community College  
**Dawn-Jana Dressman**, South Piedmont Community College  
**Johnathan Corbett**, Southeastern Community College  
**Titus Laney, V**, Southwestern Community College  
**Gordon Paul Hopkins**, Stanly Community College  
**Tammy Lawrence Brindle**, Surry Community College  
**Cynthia Lundy**, Tri-County Community College  
**Sharon Ingandela**, Vance-Granville Community College  
**Aneta K. Mrozek**, Wake Technical Community College  
**Philip H. Parry, Sr.**, Wayne Community College  
**Kylie Knight**, Western Piedmont Community College  
**Matthew Brian Weatherman**, Wilkes Community College  
**Bonnie Ann Boshart**, Wilson Community College

Also recognized during the event were the winners of the 2010 NC Community Colleges Art Exhibition. Stewart Campbell from Lenoir Community College won for his ceramic piece, titled *Oriental Teapot*. Nam V. Nguyen from Central Piedmont Community College won for his oil painting titled, *Cryogenic Spring*.

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