



NC Community Colleges  
Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Statement from Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President, NC Community College System, on the Proposed House Budget:**

“Education has historically led North Carolina out of economic hardship, and House leaders have recognized the immediate, critical needs of all levels of education by developing a revenue package that restores some vital funding to K-12, community colleges and universities. For our community colleges, these additional dollars will certainly not erase the full impact of the larger proposed cuts, but they do provide access to 3,700 more community college students and the ability to save as many as 215 faculty and staff positions at a time when record numbers of North Carolinians are turning to their community colleges. Additionally, restored tuition waivers allow our colleges to continue free training for designated groups including North Carolina’s essential public service professionals including local fire department, law enforcement and rescue and life-saving personnel.

“Our state’s leaders have the opportunity to carry on North Carolina’s tradition as the ‘Education State’ and to ensure that, especially in these difficult economic times, our community colleges will be able to meet the unprecedented demand for education and retraining. All across our state, dislocated workers, new high school graduates and more are turning to our community colleges for hope and opportunity. North Carolina can’t afford for them to be turned away.”

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