



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

January 15, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community College Presidents

FROM: H. Martin Lancaster

SUBJECT: 2003-2005 Strategic Plan

I would like to announce the onset of our North Carolina Community College System planning cycle for years 2003-2005. As with the past two cycles, our planning starts with an environmental scan of North Carolina business communities and citizens to determine their perceptions of our State's greatest needs.

Four years ago the North Carolina community college environmental scan was initiated with a two-day conference to outline what became our system's **1999-2001 Strategic Plan**. Likewise, a similar gathering was held two years ago as a one-day focused session to initiate our **2001-2003 Strategic Plan**. Now, the system is going to seek broad-based input from many communities in our **first virtual environmental scan**.

Each electronic submission to our virtual environmental scan will become public and available for your future campus planning process. I trust this process will benefit both the campus and system planning process. Therefore, I would like you to circulate this request for comments in your campus meetings and encourage community participation via your established communication channels. It will assist all of us if you can circulate this request to many since we want to hear from your communities.

Please encourage your campus communities, your business communities and appropriate local citizen groups to reflect on what are the **greatest future opportunities and/or needs facing North Carolina**. Assure everyone that his or her shared thoughts will become part of our collective wisdom that outlines our next **2003-2005 Strategic Plan**.

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We would like all submission to be concise and submitted to this electronic mail address **planning2005@NCCCS.CC.NC.US**. A reference to one of the six-topic areas that we have used in the past would be helpful in each submission's subject line:

- ✓ Economic
- ✓ Education/Training
- ✓ Demographic
- ✓ Political
- ✓ Social
- ✓ Technology

If the sender does not believe the submission fits into one of these subject areas, it is appropriate to enter "Other" in the subject line.

The "open period" for submission will be from January 14, 2002 **until February 14, 2002**. Posting of received comments will be on the NC Community College System web site for everyone's review and further comment.

http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Keith_Brown/planning/virtualscan.htm

Following this open review and comment period, the System's Planning Council will receive a summary of this environmental scan with critical objectives highlighted. Our Planning Council is representative of many North Carolina communities and will be charged with developing goals for 2003-2005. Finally, these proposed critical objectives and goals will be presented to the State Board of Community Colleges for review in April 2002 and for action in June 2002.

If any individual in your community is not able to submit the material electronically as we have outlined, I would like him or her to contact Larry Gracie in our office (919/733-7051) so he can develop a way to get the input into our system.

Thank you very much for the part you play in linking our system to the local community.

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