



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

January 20, 2006

RESPONSE DATE: MARCH 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents

FROM: Martin Lancaster

SUBJECT: *North Carolina Community College System
Academic Excellence Awards Luncheon*

It is time to begin planning for the *North Carolina Community College System Academic Excellence Awards Luncheon* to be held on **Thursday, April 27, 2006**, at the Hilton North Raleigh. **Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m., and the luncheon and awards program will be held from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.** For the past seven years, this special event has provided a unique opportunity for the Community College System to showcase its students and their academic achievements, as well as highlight the work that the colleges do each and every day. Last year's event was quite successful. We were very pleased that despite their busy schedule, several state legislators were able to join us.

To initiate this event, I am writing to inform you about two processes:

- ✓ **Selection of the Academic Award Recipients and**
- ✓ **Invitations to Attend the Event**

Selection of the Academic Award Recipients

Please begin the process of identifying the award recipients upon receipt of this letter. Each college may select two recipients. Following are the recommended criteria for doing so, which is consistent with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society criteria:

- Must be currently enrolled.
- Must have completed at least 12 semester hours in an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, or Associate of General Studies degree.
- Must have a cumulative grade point average of not less than 3.25.

However, the colleges may employ additional scholarship criteria beyond these minimum requirements which may include one year vocational students.

(cont.)

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Please complete your selection of award recipients and submit the *Student Profile* sheet (attached) **by MARCH 6, 2006**. *Please note that we are requesting a 4"x5" portrait-style head and shoulder photograph or a photograph in jpg format be submitted for each student being recognized. The photographs will be used for the awards program and for other publication purposes.*

Invitations to Attend the Event

Each college may invite up to 10 individuals (including the two students being honored, as well as your legislative delegation and college staff). We will send you 10 invitations and reply cards for the luncheon by early-February. We will also send you a registration form on which to record the names of the individuals who have accepted your college's invitation to attend the event. If all colleges participate in the awards luncheon, the estimated total expense to each college will be \$520 – \$170 for the college's two award recipients and \$350 for the 10 individuals you invite to the luncheon (\$35/person). Legislators invited to attend the awards luncheon should be included as part of your ten (10) invitees.

Also attached is a copy of a letter I plan to send to members of the General Assembly describing the awards luncheon and letting them know to expect an invitation from their community college presidents. In addition to your local legislators, please feel free to invite your trustee chair, student advisors, and family and friends of the two award recipients. Please coordinate the process with your neighboring colleges, especially when a state legislator represents several colleges.

Banners and Flags

As in past years, you will be asked to send in your college banners or flags for display on the walls at the luncheon. Please remember to have your flag or banner available. We will contact you in mid-March to make the needed arrangements.

Attached is a copy of last year's program for your review. If you have any questions about the above processes or about any portion of the awards luncheon, please contact the committee chairs: Stephanie Deese at (919) 807-7159, fax (919) 807-7169, e-mail deeses@nccommunitycolleges.edu or Wanda White at (919) 807-7104, fax (919) 807-7164, e-mail whitew@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

I always look forward to the annual *Academic Excellence Awards Luncheon* with great anticipation. I am delighted that we have this opportunity to once again celebrate the achievements of so many and to realize the positive influence that our community colleges have on the citizens of North Carolina.

HML:bl

Attachments

c: Dr. Delores Parker, Vice President
College Chief Academic Officers
College Public Information Officers
College Student Development Administrators

CC06-011
Paper Copy
E-mail

DRAFT LETTER TO STATE LEGISLATORS

The Honorable (Legislator)
2007 Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator (Legislator):

I am delighted to announce that The North Carolina Community College System will hold its **Academic Excellence Awards Luncheon on Thursday, April 27, 2006, at the Hilton North Raleigh in Raleigh.** It is a unique opportunity for the Community College System to showcase its students and their academic achievements as well as to highlight the work of the community colleges.

Each of the 58 community colleges will select two award recipients to be recognized at the awards luncheon for a total of 118 students. I realize that selecting just two students for this award will be difficult for the colleges because there are so many excellent students from which to choose. The awards ceremony recognizes just a few of the community college students and graduates who work to improve not only themselves but also their communities.

On behalf of the System and your local community college, we would be honored if you would please mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us for this special celebration on **April 27th**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. and the luncheon and awards program will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. You will receive a formal invitation and further details from the president of the community college in your area about the event within the next few weeks.

I look forward to the Academic Excellence Awards Luncheon with great anticipation and hope you will be able to attend. I am delighted that we have this opportunity to once again celebrate the achievements of so many and to realize the positive influence that our community colleges have on the citizens of North Carolina.

Sincerely,

H. Martin Lancaster

cc: Community College Presidents