



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

January 22, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Financial Aid Officers

From: Karen Yerby, Associate Director
Student Development Services

Subject: Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges

We are pleased to announce that the Golden LEAF Foundation has funded the **Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges** for 2007. The Foundation has increased funding for this program from \$300,000 to \$500,000. This program will provide grants of up to \$750 per semester, including the summer term, for curriculum degree seeking students and up to \$250 per semester for occupational education students to be applied toward their tuition, registration fees, and related expenses at the community college where they are enrolled. Scholarships will be need and merit based and awarded on a **first-come, first-serve basis**.

To be eligible, a community college student must:

- Be a permanent resident of one of the 73 eligible counties as designated by the Golden LEAF Foundation. (Attachment I)
- Show financial need. All students will be required to disclose other financial aid awards in order for funding to meet the needs of the broad population of students.
 - Curriculum students should demonstrate a need based on FAFSA information.
 - Occupational Extension students should demonstrate a need under federal TRIO formula. (Attachment II) This criterion will be used so occupational education students will not need to file a Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA).
- Degree seeking students must be enrolled half-time for a full award. Less than half-time students may be considered pending the availability of funds.

Finalists meeting all the eligibility criteria will undergo a separate “merit” competition. Selection is based on:

- The effect of the decline in the tobacco industry on his or her family
- The effect of the declining economy on his or her family

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- Academic record
- Overall evaluation of the application
- Leadership and community service

Application Process

- Students will file a Golden LEAF Scholars application (Attachment IV). Applications will be filed with college financial aid offices and should **NOT** be sent to North Carolina Community College System. Applications do not need to be completed for each award period.
- Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the Golden LEAF application prior to each deadline.
- Applicants will complete the waiver form (Attachment V) for use of their social security numbers. (*Social security numbers will be used for tracking purposes only.*)
- Financial Aid Offices will determine eligibility and appoint a selection committee comprised of college personnel from various areas of the college to review student applications. (Each college should determine a method to collect family income data for Occupational Education students.)
- The committee will **select up to fifteen students** for awards and select award amounts. Individual award amounts are set at the discretion of the college up to \$750 for curriculum students and \$250 for occupational education students per semester. Primary consideration should be given to students from families adversely affected by the decline in the tobacco industry.
- The committee will meet at least once during the award semesters and on an as-needed basis throughout the year.
- Financial Aid Offices will provide an Excel spreadsheet of selected recipients, not to exceed fifteen, including name, award amounts, and use of funds to NCCCS. (Attachment VI) February 21 is the deadline for student award lists to be sent to NCCCS for spring awards.
- Financial Aid Officers will separately mail hard copies of social security numbers and waiver forms to Karen Yerby, NCCCS, 5016 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-5016.
- NCCCS will transfer funds to the colleges for disbursement to student recipients.
- Colleges may redistribute funds caused by student withdrawal or other circumstances to other eligible students. Colleges must provide NCCCS with the new student's name, award amount, use of funds, social security number and waiver form.

Applications for the Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges will be posted on the internet at www.CFNC.org and the NCCCS website. **The funds in this program will be distributed to the colleges on a first-come, first-serve basis through the fall of 2007. Information from the colleges regarding award recipients will be dated upon arrival and funds will be disbursed accordingly.** Funding will be budgeted with \$200,000 each for spring and fall semesters and \$100,000 for the summer term.

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The Golden LEAF Foundation has requested that we begin tracking recipients to show that funds are being used to assist students in completing their educational goals and becoming productive citizens of North Carolina. Due to this request, we will begin tracking grant recipients by their social security numbers. State law (Session Law 2005-414) states that we must have permission to use social security numbers in this way which is why we are including a waiver form.

Questions concerning the program should be directed to Karen Yerby at (919) 807-7107 or yerbyk@nccommunitycolleges.edu .

c: Presidents
Student Development Administrators
Chief Business Officers
Chief Continuing Education Officers
Mr. Fred Williams
Dr. Delores A. Parker
Mr. Kennon Briggs
Mrs. Alice Smith
Mr. Ken Whitehurst
Ms. Wanda White
Dr. Steven Brooks



2007 Eligible Counties of Residence

Alleghany	Granville	Pitt
Anson	Greene	Polk
Ashe	Halifax	Richmond
Avery	Harnett	Robeson
Beaufort	Haywood	Rockingham
Bertie	Hertford	Rutherford
Bladen	Hoke	Sampson
Burke	Hyde	Scotland
Caldwell	Johnston	Stanly
Camden	Jones	Stokes
Carteret	Lee	Surry
Caswell	Lenoir	Swain
Cherokee	Macon	Transylvania
Chowan	Madison	Tyrrell
Clay	Martin	Vance
Cleveland	McDowell	Warren
Columbus	Mitchell	Washington
Craven	Montgomery	Watauga
Currituck	Nash	Wayne
Dare	Northampton	Wilkes
Duplin	Onslow	Wilson
Edgecombe	Pamlico	Yadkin
Franklin	Pasquotank	Yancey
Gates	Perquimans	
Graham	Person	

Attachment II

Federal TRIO Programs 2006 Annual Low Income Levels

Effective February 2006 Until Further Notice)

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$14,700	\$18,375	\$16,905
2	\$19,800	\$24,750	\$22,770
3	\$24,900	\$31,125	\$28,635
4	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$34,500
5	\$35,100	\$43,875	\$40,365
6	\$40,200	\$50,250	\$46,230
7	\$45,300	\$56,625	\$52,095
8	\$50,400	\$63,000	\$57,960

For family units with more than 8 members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$5,100 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$6,375 for Alaska; and \$5,865 for Hawaii.

The term "low-income individual" means an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount.

The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 15, January 24, 2006, pp. 3848-3849.

Attachment III

**Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges
2007 Projected Timeline**

Spring Semester (\$200,000)

January 2007 – Program information sent to colleges

January 2007 – Student applications due to Financial Aid Offices (each community college will decide deadline date)

February 21, 2007 – Deadline for student award list and social security number waiver form to be sent to NCCCS

March/April 2007 – Spring award money transferred to community colleges for disbursement (date contingent on transfer of funds from Golden LEAF Foundation)

Summer Semester (\$100,000)

May 2007 – Student applications due to Financial Aid Offices (each community college will decide deadline date)

June 4, 2007 – Deadline for summer award list and social security number waiver form to be sent to NCCCS

July 2007 - Summer award money transferred to community colleges for disbursement (date contingent on transfer of funds from Golden LEAF Foundation)

Fall Semester (\$200,000)

August 2007 - Student applications due to Financial Aid Offices (each community college will decide deadline date)

September 12, 2007 - Deadline for fall award list and social security number waiver form to be sent to NCCCS

October/November 2007 - Fall award money transferred to colleges for disbursement (date contingent on transfer of funds from Golden LEAF Foundation)

NOTE: The dates above are proposed dates and may change. Contact Karen Yerby if you have any questions.