



NC Community Colleges: North Carolina's Economic Emergency Room

With 27,000 new students ranging from recent high-school graduates to displaced workers, our state's community colleges have become the economic emergency room for North Carolina's workforce. All 58 colleges are struggling to provide the services North Carolinians need at a time when our state's revenues are tight.

- Thousands of laid-off workers looking for new job skills are flooding through our doors. Some are seeking short-term training through JobsNOW; some, healthcare or first responder training, and some, skills in the fast-growing industries of biotechnology, life sciences, aerospace or green technology.
- A record number of younger full-time students have enrolled, attracted by the economical, quality education available as family finances tighten or drawn by a streamlined articulation agreement between our colleges and our state's universities offering a gateway to a bachelor's degree.

Community colleges are on the frontlines of treating North Carolina economic emergency needs. These 2010-11 budget requests are put forth to help us attend to or "triage" the workforce and educational needs of tens of thousands of new community college students.

2010-2011 "Triage" Budget Request

- **Enrollment Growth** **\$81 million**
Unprecedented enrollment increases of at least 27,000 students mean that the NC Community College System has grown by a student size equivalent to UNC-Chapel Hill in just one year. Funding for enrollment growth is needed to cover the burgeoning costs of new students and to maintain program quality for all students.
- **Equipment Growth** **\$4.7 million**
Community colleges remain underfunded for equipment with budgets allowing for replacement only every nine years. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the equipment budget does not grow with enrollment.
- **Forward Funding** **\$14 million**
Community colleges are the fastest growing education sector but the only one to receive funding based on the previous year's enrollment. A recurring appropriation to a reserve fund will help manage enrollment surges and begin to align our growth funding with other educational institutions.
- **Summer Developmental** **\$12 million**
Sixty-four percent of the 2008 NC High School graduates who enrolled at community colleges took at least one remedial (i.e. developmental) course. Moving more remediation efforts to the currently unfunded summer semester, at a cost of approximately \$12 million, will make summers more productive for students working to succeed and will increase the probability of student completion.