

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

A Summary of 2009-2010 State Funded Financial Aid Programs  
For Community College Students

**The N. C. Community College Grant Program** –The State Board of Community Colleges provides need based financial assistance to community college students through this program.<sup>1</sup> During the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year, 27,201 students received \$14,748,618 in Community College Grants. This represents an increase of 942 students but a decrease of \$1,748,693 from the \$16,497,311 disbursed during 2008-2009. Even though the number of students receiving awards increased over the prior year, the average award amount declined as an **increased number of students became eligible for more Pell Grant funding.** These grants are based upon the eligibility guidelines that use the federal financial aid methodology. They are targeted to students who receive little or no Pell assistance and are below the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit threshold. The average award for students from this funding source was \$542.

**Targeted Assistance** – Since 2001, the State Board of Community Colleges has been authorized by G.S. 115D-40.1.(b) to allocate no more than ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated for Financial Assistance for Community College students to:

- (1) Students who do not qualify for need-based assistance but who enroll in low enrollment programs that prepare students for high-demand occupations, and
- (2) Students with disabilities who have been referred by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and are enrolled in a community college.

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the State Board authorized a total of \$500,000 for Targeted Assistance awards. A total of \$444,204 was actually disbursed to 51 colleges that requested assistance for students in credit programs and non-credit programs. (Attachment A)

**Less Than Half Time** – Since 2003, the State Board of Community Colleges has authorized “*The Less than Half-Time*” program which provides need-based assistance to students enrolled 6 hours or less (less than half-time) in certificate, diploma or associate degree programs. During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the State Board authorized a total of \$262,807 for Less than Half-Time Grant awards. A total of \$193,905 was actually disbursed in assistance to 51 colleges. (Attachment B)

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to 1999, this program was authorized under G.S. 115D-40. Section 9.4 of S.L. 1999-273 repealed G.S. 115D-40 and enacted language governing need based aid for the 1999-2001 biennium. The language found in S.L. 1999-273 was codified by adding G.S. 115D-40.1 through S.L. 2001-229.