



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

August 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Financial Aid Officers

From: Karen Yerby, Associate Director
Student Development Services

Subject: **Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges**

This Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges provides grants for curriculum degree seeking students and occupational education students to be applied toward their tuition, registration fees, and related expenses at the community college where they are enrolled. During the spring and summer funding periods for the 2009 Golden LEAF Scholars Program, 399 awards totaling \$283,050 were awarded to 370 students from 30 community colleges.

Fall 2009 funding is budgeted at \$216,950. Awards are **limited to fifteen (15) students per college at \$750 for curriculum students and \$250 for occupational education students**. Scholarships will be need and merit based and on a **first-come, first-serve basis**. Each college's fall award list must be received in the System Office by **September 2, 2009**.

To be eligible, a community college student must:

- Be a permanent resident of one of the 78 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 III). 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 IV) 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 V) September 2, 2009 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 notify and 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 2009. Information from the colleges regarding award recipients will be dated upon arrival and funds will be disbursed accordingly.** Ten percent of the budgeted funds will be held in reserve until needed, per agreement with the NCCCS State Board.

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

The Golden LEAF Foundation is requesting that we gather recipient addresses so they can contact students in an effort to evaluate the program. Due to FERPA issues, we are asking for student addresses on a voluntary basis only. A student does not have to provide his/her address to receive the grant.

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

c: Student Development Administrators
Chief Business Officers
Chief Continuing Education Officers
Mr. Kennon Briggs
Dr. Delores A. Parker
Ms. Jennifer Haygood
Ms. Alice Smith
Mr. Van Wilson
Ms. Wanda White
Dr. Steven Brooks



**Golden LEAF Scholars Program - Two-Year Colleges
2009 Eligible Counties**

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

Attachment II

**Federal TRIO Programs
2008 Annual Low Income Levels**

(Effective February 2008 Until Further Notice)

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$15,600	\$19,500	\$17,940
2	\$21,000	\$26,250	\$24,150
3	\$26,400	\$33,000	\$30,360
4	\$31,800	\$39,750	\$36,570
5	\$37,200	\$46,500	\$42,780
6	\$42,600	\$53,250	\$48,990
7	\$48,000	\$60,000	\$55,200
8	\$53,400	\$66,750	\$61,410

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$5,400 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$6,750 for Alaska; and \$6,210 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. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3,971-3,972.