



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

May 17, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Financial Aid Officers

From: Karen Yerby, Associate Director
Student Development Services

Subject: Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges

The 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 funding period for the Golden LEAF Scholars Program, \$219,300 was awarded to 303 students from 24 colleges.

Summer 2010 funding is budgeted at \$85,000 and awards are **limited to four (4) students per college** at \$750 for curriculum students and \$250 for occupational education students. Although awards are on a **first-come, first-serve basis**, all college summer award lists must be received in the System Office by **June 9, 2010**.

New for 2010 per the Golden LEAF Foundation:

- Students are **required** to submit their social security number and address to receive an award.
- Categories on the student application for “use of funds” have been changed. The “other” category has been eliminated and students may no longer use Golden LEAF funds to assist with living expenses. Categories now consist of tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation, and childcare. The fee category may include college fees, exam fees, clinical fees and other educational fees. Computer software, uniforms and other needed supplies related to a student’s classes are acceptable under supplies.
- Students do not have to show they have been affected by the decline in the tobacco industry.

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 declining economy on his or her family.
- 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 four 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.
- 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 four, including name, award amounts, and use of funds to NCCCS. (Attachment V) June 9th is the deadline for student award lists to be sent to NCCCS for summer 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

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Applications for the Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges are 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 2010. 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.

Due to a request by the Golden LEAF Foundation, we are 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.

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

Attachments

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

**Golden LEAF Scholars Program
 Qualifying Counties 2010-2011 Grant Award
 North Carolina Community College System**

Scholarships are limited to students who demonstrate financial need and reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent and/or economically distressed (*Tier 1 or Tier 2 under the 3-Tier designation). A scholarship recipient who resides in an eligible county upon initial award will retain eligibility and will be eligible for renewal awards as long as the student's place of residence is within the state of North Carolina.

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

Attachment II

**Federal TRIO Programs
2009 Annual Low Income Levels**

2010 TRIO Low-Income Levels: On January 22, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a [Federal Register notice](#) advising that the 2009 poverty guidelines will remain in effect until updated 2010 poverty guidelines are published which will not be before March 1. Since the Department uses the HHS poverty guidelines to update the TRIO low-income levels, TRIO grantees shall use the TRIO 2009 Low Income Levels, below, until further notice.

(Effective January 23, 2009 Until Further Notice)

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$16,245	\$20,295	\$18,690
2	\$21,855	\$27,315	\$25,140
3	\$27,465	\$34,335	\$31,590
4	\$33,075	\$41,355	\$38,040
5	\$38,685	\$48,375	\$44,490
6	\$44,295	\$55,395	\$50,940
7	\$49,905	\$62,415	\$57,390
8	\$55,515	\$69,435	\$63,840

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$5,610 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$7,020 for Alaska; and \$6,450 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. 74, No. 14, January 23, 2009, pp. 4,199-4,201.