

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Spring
2008



Director's Letter

Wanda White

On behalf of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), we are pleased to provide you with this edition of the Student Development Services Newsletter. I hope each of you had a productive Spring Semester. I know this is a hectic time on your campuses, since many of you are finalizing graduation and preparing for the 2008 Summer School sessions at the same time.

I want you to know that this is an exciting time for the Student Development Services staff and other staff members of the NCCCS office. As many of you know, Dr. Scott Ralls is the new President of the North Carolina Community College System. We are looking forward to working with him and to a progressive and productive year ahead. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating him on his position. Dr. Ralls is an outstanding leader who will focus on (10) Strategic Emphases. Many of these emphases are directly tied to the mission of our Student Services areas. We have included the (10) Strategic Emphases on page 2 of this newsletter.

We are planning several projects that will assist in the professional development of Community College Student Services Personnel. A "**Student Engagement and Retention Workshop**" has been planned for June 17, 2008. The workshop will be held from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at the North Campus of Cape Fear Community College in Castle Hayne. Over 180 have registered for the workshop. Individuals interested in attending the workshop who have not registered should contact Charletta S. Evans by calling 919-807-7106 or by email at simsc@ncccommunitycolleges.edu.

The NCCCS State Board approved a new Continuing Education Program; BAF 3200: **Financial Aid Professionals**, which will be offered beginning in the 2008 Fall Semester. Instructional materials are based on current policies and procedures from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). Training will be provided for all instructors.

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We anticipate that at least 8 to 10 colleges across the state will offer the course on their campus. An informational session has been scheduled for June 26, 2008, at the System Office for colleges who are interested in participating. We would like very much to hear from financial aid administrators who are interested in teaching the course. Please refer to page 4 for more information.

I also want to encourage as many of you as possible to attend the **2008 NC Community College System Conference**. The conference will be held October 12-14, 2008 at the Raleigh Convention Center. Conference registration, hotel, and other information will be available in late July at www.continuingeducation.ncsu.edu/ncccs.

We will continue to provide you with news and updates regarding upcoming student development events. We encourage each of you to participate in the conferences and training which we offer when possible. Please remember that presentations from conferences and workshops that we host will be posted on North Carolina Community College System website under Student Support Services

In closing, I want to express my sincere thanks for the support you have given the Student Development Services staff members here at the System Office. We are very proud of the many opportunities which we have to serve you and your institutions.

MMM Conference Huge Success

Audrey Bailey

The Minority Male Mentoring Conference held April 7-9, was a huge success! Hundreds of students, mentors, educators and community leaders gathered at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham and joined forces to help minority male students succeed in the classroom. The Community College System and the conference planning committee believe everyone has a stake in education, and they believe the stakes are especially high for African American male students. "Many of our young men have the tools they need and they have the desire," explained one of the conference organizers, Monty Hickman, who is also Associate Director of Financial Aid with the N.C. Community College system. "They just don't have the direction to put them on the right path for leadership. We want people to see there are young professional minority males, and we do have an investment and stake in education. We want them to know that education is for everyone, and everyone has a place in education."

Together students, mentors and educators shared strategies to help minority males succeed in the classroom. Conference participants were divided into groups and created a strategic action plan to be used for future planning. Organizers said it's important to develop a support system for students, especially with mentors. Students said the support means a lot.

"Just to know that someone else went through the same pains and the same struggles that you went through - it gives you confirmation, it gives you motivation to move on with your life," said Gerrold Williams, a student at Halifax Community College. "I really feel like we need mentor programs in the high schools, and with me being a college student, I want to grow up to be a mentor so that I can go back to the high schools and help students out."

Michael Spriggs, a student at Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, agreed. "When you come here it gives you a lot of empowerment, a lot of motivation, a lot of inspiration to go back home and inspire the other youth," he said.

The Community College System believes each person who helps a student helps the community. "We realize that if we have healthy, productive students, then we have a healthy, productive workforce and community," Hickman said.

"The work has already begun."

said President Ralls, who appeared at the January 2008 State Board meeting at the request of State Board Chair Hilda Pinnix-Ragland.

Ralls listed "Four C's" important as he makes plans for his return to the System Office, where he served as vice president for economic and workforce development before going to Craven Community College.

"Community is the most important word in our name," said Ralls. He said each college must service its region; what is right for one community might not be right for all.

He listed collaboration and connection, saying, "We must learn from each other."

Finally, he pointed to willingness to change as the factor of overriding importance. "The world changes so quickly," he said, pointing to rapid shifts in the state, its economy and its competition.

Ralls listed three "areas of urgency" for the North Carolina Community College System, which enrolls more than 800,000 students a year in 58 comprehensive community colleges. First, he said the System must step back and take a hard look at the level of complexity in process and procedures that has developed over the years. Second, he underlined the need for greater resources for community colleges as baby-boomers retire, workforce needs escalate and demand grows for more students to complete degrees on time. Third, he emphasized the need for collaboration among educational agencies, saying, "There is a lot already in progress, thanks to Martin Lancaster and (UNC System President) Erskine Bowles."

Ralls characterized himself as a "community college optimist," saying, "No matter what goes wrong, there is so much more that is right."

NC-ACCESS

Staff development for *YOU!*

www.nc-access.info

Legislative Update (2008-09 Budget)

Counselor Positions – \$3,797,493 was requested by NCCCS in the February 2008-09 Budget Request. These positions would have provided each college an additional counseling position. *(This item did not make it to the Governor's budget recommendations which were released on May 12, 2008.)*

Minority Male Mentoring Program – \$975,000 was requested by NCCCS to sustain fifteen (15) continuing programs and to establish fifteen (15) new programs to develop and enhance the marketable skills of the most underrepresented population. *(The amount of \$1,000,000 was included in the Governor's budget recommendations.)*

Governor Easley's budget recommendations for community colleges – *(These recommendations have not yet been approved by the state legislature.)*

- \$58.3 million overall budget increase
- \$23.8 million for increased enrollment
- \$4.8 million for nurse accreditation programs to add 55 allied health faculty positions to cut waiting lists
- \$5 million to address equipment needs, including health programs
- \$2.5 million to expand the NCCCS Data Warehouse
- Recommends that state employees receive equivalent of a 4 percent pay increase through a 1.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment and a \$1000 one-time bonus. State employees would also receive 5 days of paid bonus leave.

Recent Numbered Memos of Interest

- **CC08-114** – “Unrestricted Admissions of Undocumented or Illegal Immigrants” 5/13/08
- **CC08-119** – “Community College Exemption from Immunization Requirement” 5/21/08
- **CC08-123** – “New Continuing Education Course for Financial Aid Professionals” 5/22/08
- **CC08-127** – “Operating Procedures Manual for the Enrollment of High School Students in Community College Courses” 5/27/08

You may access all 2008 numbered memos at

http://www.ncccs.cc.nc.us/Numbered_Memos/Memos/index2008.htm

Upcoming Events

- **Student Engagement and Retention Workshop** – June 17, Cape Fear CC North Campus
- **Student Development Deans Association Meeting** – June 18, Wilson Restaurant, Wilmington
- **Institutional Information Processing System Users (IIPS)** – July 21-23, Marriott Executive Park, Charlotte
- **2008 NC Community College System Conference** – Oct. 12-14, Raleigh Convention Center
- **Student Leadership Institute Fall Mini-Session** - Oct. 24-25, Crabtree Marriott, Raleigh
- **Fall N4CSGA Conference** – Oct. 31-Nov. 2, Greenville Hilton Hotel <http://n4csga.org>
- **NCASFAA** – Nov. 3-5, Twin City Quarter/Marriott & Embassy Suites, Winston-Salem
- **NC College Personnel Association Fall Conference** – Nov. 12-14, Asheville <http://www.mynccpa.org>.

NCCCS News Briefs

Statewide Placement Testing Committee Update

The Statewide Placement Testing Committee met on May 14, 2008 at the System Office to continue discussing plans for the next Placement Testing Validation Study. The committee is currently discussing the process for which data will be submitted from the colleges and the System Office to ACT and College Board for the study. Colleges were recently surveyed to determine whether placement testing data is downloaded or manually keyed into Colleague (Datatel). Survey results indicate that the majority of community colleges are manually keying placement testing data. The committee also met in February with System Office technology staff and publishers from ACT and College Board to determine the process and time table for the validation study. The next Placement Testing Validation Study will cover the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 academic years. Committee chairperson, Brad Bostian, will provide regular updates throughout the year regarding the planning process of the committee.

New Continuing Education Course for Financial Aid Professionals

The Department of Student Development Services has been working to develop a curriculum framework for on-going, standardized training for financial aid professionals. The instructional materials are based on current policies and procedures from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA).

BAF3200: Financial Aid Professionals Course was approved by the NCCCS State Board and will be listed on the Continuing Education Master Course List in July 2008. This course is designed to provide training for financial aid professionals and other interested individuals. Course content will cover all aspects of administering federal and state student financial aid programs. An informational session will be held on June 26, 2008 at the System Office for colleges interested in offering the course. The System Office will provide a training session in July 2008 for individuals interested in teaching the course. If you have questions regarding the course, please contact Wanda White at 919/807-7104.

Teach Grant

The Department of Education has announced the new Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant program. The TEACH grant provides assistance to students who plan on becoming teachers and teachers who are pursuing a graduate degree.

While this grant will do much to assist with the teacher shortage, there are some factors to consider before offering it to your students. If the recipient does not meet **ALL** grant obligations, the grant becomes a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. Schools have been notified to consider all information provided before deciding to offer the grant to students. Participation in the TEACH Grant program is not mandatory.

NC-ACCESS

The results of the November 2007 NC-ACCESS Survey of Registration and Advising Procedures are now posted on the NC-ACCESS website under General Resources at "Sample Practices in Student Services". Also new to the site under General Resources, is information about the Community College Recruiters Opportunity Program (CCROP) at "Recruitment/Admissions." If you have any suggestions for the site, contact Karen Yerby at yerbyk@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

College Redirection Module

The College Redirection Module is open to colleges through August 31, 2008 to connect college applicants with North Carolina colleges and universities that still have open admission slots. This module serves as a great recruitment opportunity for community colleges. We believe that this is an opportunity not only for our colleges but also for many students who may not have the opportunity to attend college. The College Redirection Module was established primarily to assist students who have been denied admission from the institution of their choice and who are seeking other opportunities to pursue higher education during the upcoming fall semester. We would like every student in the redirection pool to be contacted by their local community college. If your college has not set up a College Redirection Project, please contact the Control Center at www.CFNC.org. You may also contact Katie Prosser, CFNC Campus Liaison, Technology and Internet Services at UNC General Administration by calling 919-843-8941.

Disability Services

As summer approaches many campuses are offering special programs and activities for their communities such as computer camps and quiz bowls. It is in everyone's best interest to develop policies and procedures for community programs and activities being sponsored by your college and/or on your campus before a participant in these activities requests accommodations. The college may be asked to give meds to a child with ADHD at Drama Camp, or provide extra time for a middle school student in a science bowl contest. There can be many cost factors and liability issues that will need to be addressed proactively.

Student Services Personnel Directory

We are updating the statewide directory for student services personnel for the 2008/2009 year. In order to provide accurate information to colleges and constituents we are asking that you provide the names, titles and contact information for any personnel changes within your department. If you have not already done so, this information should be forwarded to Charletta Sims by e-mail at simsC@ncccommunitycolleges.edu. Please refer to numbered memo CC08-103 dated May 5, 2008 for further details. The revised Student Services Personnel Directory will be forwarded to each college and will be posted on the NCCCS website.

End of Year Reports

Questions regarding End of Year Reports should be sent to Monty Hickman at hickmanm@ncccommunitycolleges.edu or by calling 919-807-7195.

Less Than-Half-Time Funds - Colleges receiving these funds must report to the System Office after June 30th of each year the number of students assisted; by enrollment status and the amount of funds expended and unexpended. The report is due by July 10, 2008. More detailed information can be found in numbered memo CC08-098.

NC Community College Loan Program – All colleges participating in the NC Community College Loan Program must report annually to the System Office the number of loans granted, the total amount loaned and the balance in the loan funds as of June 30, 2008. This report is due by July 15, 2008. More detailed information can be found in numbered memo CC08-113.

High Demand/Low Enrollment Funds (Targeted Assistance) – Colleges participating in this grant program are required to submit a report annually regarding expenditures of these funds. This report is due by July 10, 2008. More detailed information can be found in numbered memo CC08-097.

N4CSGA State Advocacy Retreat

The N4CSGA Executive board is working diligently to make positive changes for all students. The executive board held a State Advocacy Retreat in Raleigh March 12-14, 2008. During the three day retreat the executive board met Senator Richard Stevens from the Appropriations Committee. They also had the opportunity to meet with Representatives Melanie Wade Goodwin, Winkie Wilkins and Joe Tolson, members of the Education Subcommittee on Community Colleges. The executive board discussed the following issues:

- Lack of advanced technology and equipment in Vocational programs
- Critical need for more nursing instructors and nurses in North Carolina
- Provisions for childcare on campus
- Textbook costs and better economic alternatives

Senator Stevens encouraged students to assist with recruitment. He stated, "Students need to understand that there are jobs available in the vocational market, but they are not being taken advantage of, the stigma of such jobs needs to be erased."

Representatives Goodwin and Wilkins urged the students to invite district representatives to their campuses in an effort to educate the legislators. Both representatives were well aware of the issues brought forth during the meeting. The Education Subcommittee has discussed the following:

- Planning to increase instructor salary to national average (implementing)
- Technical needs
- Increase funds for equipment budgets (needs to continue)
- Allow industries to move equipment to college campuses for better training
- Healthcare Workforce Study Committee is discussing the nursing shortage and a top priority is to increase the salary of the nursing instructors.

The executive board also had the opportunity to attend and present during the NC Community College State Board meeting. The students were well received and the board is very supportive of their efforts. Dr. Delores A. Parker, Sr. Vice President and CAO for Academic and Student Services and Van Wilson, Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Services, also met with the students to share words of encouragement and motivation.

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