

PRESS RELEASE

North Carolina Community College System

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

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Sept. 1 deadline for community college scholarships for future teachers

Raleigh: Community college students studying to be teachers have **until Monday, September 1** to apply for the prestigious North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Teacher Preparation Scholarships awarded annually by the North Carolina Community Colleges Foundation.

First awarded in 2006, the scholarships for prospective teachers are funded by a \$2 million endowment supported by the North Carolina General Assembly, Bank of America and the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. Scholarship recipients receive up to \$5,000 in support per year.

For the 2008-2009 academic year, scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis to a limited number of students enrolled full-time in the first or second year of a community college degree program that prepares students for transfer to a baccalaureate program in elementary or secondary education and are housed on a community college campus.

Interested students should contact the financial aid office of the North Carolina community college in which they are enrolled for applications. Detailed information is available on the website of the North Carolina Community College System at http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/Numbered_Memos/docs/MemosFor2008/cc08-179.pdf.

One of the most important factors in the selection of the recipients is the desire to teach in the classrooms of low-wealth areas of North Carolina. Each recipient must complete all credentials and begin work as a teacher in a public or charter school in a low-wealth county in North Carolina within six years of receiving the first scholarship and agree to teach two full years for each year of scholarship grants.

“We need great teachers in order to have great schools,” said Dr. R. Scott Ralls, president of North Carolina Community College System. “These scholarships help future teachers earn their credentials in their hometowns, and we hope they’ll stay in our state to help meet our growing educational needs.”

Partnerships between community colleges and several campuses of the University of North Carolina as well private colleges enable prospective teachers to earn associates degrees and complete baccalaureate degrees needed for teacher certification without leaving local community college campuses.

A few examples of the many thriving collaborations include Wachovia Partnership East, which links community colleges in eastern counties to East Carolina University; the Appalachian Learning Alliance, which links western community colleges to Appalachian State University; UNC-Wilmington's pioneering program with Coastal Carolina Community College and several others in the southeast; and Lees-McRae College's successful partnership with Surry, Western Piedmont and Mayland Community Colleges.

GlaxoSmithKline, one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and health care companies, is committed to fighting disease by bringing innovative medicines and services to patients and to the health care providers who serve them. US headquarters are in Philadelphia, PA, and Research Triangle Park, NC. The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation supports activities in North Carolina that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. The Foundation focuses on programs that emphasize the understanding and application of health, science, and education at all academic and professional levels.

The North Carolina Community College System is one of the largest community college systems in the country, committed to creating success for North Carolinians. The mission of the System is to open the door to high-quality, accessible educational opportunities that minimize barriers to post-secondary education, maximize student success, and improve the lives and well-being of individuals through education, training and retraining for the workforce.

For details, visit the website at www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

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