

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, System President

NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT/PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

2008 North Carolina Community College System Conference
Sunday, Oct.12 - Tuesday, Oct. 14
Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh

System President to address largest gathering of NC community college professionals

Culinary program students show off their skills for 3000 attendees

Raleigh, NC – Community College System President Scott Ralls speaks before the largest group of community college personnel this weekend at the NC Community College System Conference, which begins on Sunday, October 12. In addition to System Office personnel, Almost 3000 faculty, staff, presidents, trustees and students from the 58 community colleges across the state will converge on Raleigh. They will attend the biennial conference that is the largest event sponsored by North Carolina's community colleges.

The conference theme this year is, "Beyond the Horizon: Preparing Students for a Global Advantage." The theme embraces the system-wide priority to continue to provide educational experiences for learners that prepares them to work competitively in a global market.

Ralls will address the conference on Sunday, October 12 during the General Session beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the fourth floor Grand Ballroom. His topic, "Access and Opportunity: A Vision for North Carolina's Community Colleges," will highlight his goals for the 58 education institutions that play a crucial role in the state's economy.

"The architecture of the workplace is constantly changing," says Ralls. "It is our responsibility to prepare our students to meet the challenges of competing on a local and global level."

Immediately following the opening general session is a reception in the president's honor. The refreshments for that reception and the afternoon break on Monday will be prepared by the culinary programs at ten community colleges: Alamance, Asheville-Buncombe Technical, Caldwell CC & Technical Institute, Cape Fear, College of The Albemarle, Fayetteville Technical, Guilford Technical, Robeson, Vance-Granville, and Wake Technical. The students of these programs will showcase their skills and highlight the exceptional programs the colleges offer in this challenging and promising field.

The major purpose of the conference is professional development, offering new perspectives and best practices. Workshops that address nearly every aspect of the community college experience will be presented over the three days. The gathering also offers an opportunity for the various professional associations within the system to meet.

Three mobile labs will be located in the exhibit hall on the lower level of the Convention Center. The NC Community Colleges' BioNetwork Mobile Biotechnology Lab is the only mobile lab designed for biotech industry training in the country. The bioMérieux Odyssey Mobile Lab provides innovative training and education on advanced diagnostic solutions to improve public health. A Mobile Medical Simulation Lab, presented by Davidson County Community College, helps with recruitment and retention efforts in training for healthcare careers.

Two other major speakers join President Ralls as keynoters.

John Edward Roueche, Ph.D. is an author, professor, and the director of the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas in Austin. A graduate of Mitchell Community College in Statesville, Dr. Roueche is one of the country's foremost experts in community college education. His presentation, "Making Good on the Promise of the Open Door," is on Monday morning during the general session that begins at 8:45 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

Jeanne Robertson, one of North Carolina's most recognized motivational speakers, will end the conference with a light-hearted and inspiring presentation. Robertson, a former Miss North Carolina who was named Miss Congeniality in the Miss America pageant, now uses her award-winning style to present clean, original, reality-based humor that gives audiences a fresh perspective on communication, change and life balance. Her presentation, "More Than a Laughing Matter," takes place during the closing general session on Tuesday afternoon, which begins at 12:15 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

The full conference program is available at:
<http://www.ncsu.edu/project/OPDWebSpace/pdf/2008ConferenceProgram.pdf>

Highlights include:

SUNDAY

- Conference registration opens Sunday morning, followed by pre-conference workshops and meetings

- 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Convention Center 402 - Concurrent Session: “Characteristics of Adult Learners and Principles for Teaching Them”
- 4:00 – 5:15 p.m. Convention Center Grand Ballroom A-C - General Session A: “Access and Opportunity: A Vision for North Carolina’s Community Colleges,” by R. Scott Ralls, Ph.D., NC Community College System President

MONDAY

- 8:45 - 10 a.m. Convention Center Grand Ballroom A-C: – General Session B: “Making Good on the Promise of the Open Door,” Dr. John Edward Roueche
- 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Convention Center 301A – Concurrent Session: “Pandemic Preparation for the Community College
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. Marriott State D – Concurrent Session: Developing a Green Technology Workforce
- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. Convention Center 306B – Concurrent Session: "Teaching Ethics: Whatever Happened to Right and Wrong?"
- 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. Sheraton Governor’s II – Concurrent Session: “I-Pod Generation” Anatomy and Physiology and Global Education via Online Education”

TUESDAY

- 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Sheraton Hannover 1 – Concurrent Session: “Effectiveness of Minority Male Mentoring Programs
- 10:45 – 12:00 p.m. Marriott State B – Concurrent Session: “Globalization of the Curriculum Through Virtualization”
- 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Grand Ballroom A-C – General Session C: “More Than a Laughing Matter,” Jeanne Robertson, CSP, CPAE

Most sessions, except for association meetings, are **open to the media for the purposes of coverage**. Come by the main conference registration desk for directions and credentials or contact:

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The North Carolina Community College System enrolls more than 800,000 students in 58 comprehensive community colleges. Internationally recognized for the scope and quality of its programs, the system is North Carolina's primary provider of workforce preparation and adult education, creating success by providing hope, opportunity and jobs for its citizens.

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