



NC Community Colleges  
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Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

## PRESS RELEASE

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### State Board of Community Colleges Hears President's Budget Priorities

*Board also endorses UNC's legislative initiative*

**RALEIGH**—In his report to the State Board of Community Colleges today, Dr. R. Scott Ralls, System President, laid out four budget priorities for the state's 58 community colleges. They include no reduction in per student (formula) funding, which includes faculty and staff salaries, and no reductions to the system's "Creating Success" priorities of technical education, health care programs and funding for technology and equipment.

"It is a challenging time for North Carolina Community Colleges, because when we had hoped to make some long-awaited budget gains, we find ourselves facing bursting enrollments, budget reversions and the suggestion of potential long-term cuts," Ralls said. "But our focus on our core priorities, I believe, suggests that we must strive to protect these four fundamentals."

To illustrate his point, Ralls told the story of a community college nursing instructor whose husband was laid off from his job. "To make family ends meet, our instructor was forced to quit her job teaching North Carolina's future nurses at a community college so that she could significantly increase her personal income by going back to work as a nurse. Now that's what rural wisdom calls 'eating your own seed corn,' and that is a compromise that North Carolina cannot afford to make," said Ralls.

The State Board also formally endorsed the budget and non-budget initiatives of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors for advancement in the 2009 session of the General Assembly.

Dr. Stuart Fountain, chair of the State Board's policy committee, said the committee recommended the endorsement because both boards are seeking to establish "a seamless program of higher education for the benefit of students to public, post-secondary education in the state of North Carolina."

Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, chair of the State Board, agreed. "Several of us have met with President Erskine Bowles and believe these initiatives are in line with the mission of community colleges," she said.

The university's initiatives include funding for campus safety and need-based financial aid; funding to improve the university's global readiness and its outreach and economic transformation efforts; and funding to continue efforts to establish accountability and performance.

In other business, the State Board

- Approved the hiring of Dr. Fran Emory as acting president of Carteret Community College effective February 1. She will replace Dr. Joseph Barwick, who retires January 31.
- Approved the promotion of Linda Weiner, special assistant to the president for engagement and economic development, to vice president of engagement and strategic innovations, System Office.
- Heard from State Board member Jeana El Sadder who presented a letter written to legislators from the board of the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA).

The State Board of Community Colleges will next meet February 19 and 20.

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