



Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

200 West Jones Street ■ Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 ■ www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

RELEASE DATE: July 1, 2010

CONTACT: Megen Hoenk hoenkm@nccommunitycolleges.edu

PHONE: (919) 807-6962

Community Colleges Demonstrate Success in Student Retention, College Level Completion of Developmental Students, and Student Satisfaction *11 Colleges Meet "Exceptional" Standards*

RALEIGH – Accountability and performance measures for North Carolina’s community colleges demonstrated successes in the percentage of degree students graduating, returning or transferring, the performance of developmental students who went on to complete college level courses, and the satisfaction of students with their community college experience. In addition, 11 community colleges met the standards for “Exceptional Institutional Performance.” The measures are based on data collected during the 2008-09 academic year.

Each year, the NC Community College System evaluates colleges’ performance in eight core areas. In the [2010 Critical Success Factors](#) report, all 58 community colleges:

- **Exceeded the System’s goal of 65 percent or more of degree students completing their education, transferring to another higher education institution or returning to continue their education.**
- **Surpassed the standard of developmental course completers passing college-level English and math courses. Increasing this rate is critical to improving overall student success rates at community colleges.**
- **Posted a 90 percent or higher student satisfaction rating from both student completers and non-completers.**

“At a time when NC’s community colleges are straining to meet the demands of unprecedented enrollment growth, these measures are an excellent indication that students continue to receive high-quality education and training,” said NC Community College System President, Dr.

Scott Ralls. "Student success and retention are extremely important as we focus on what it takes to train the workforce of the future. The successes demonstrated in this report show colleges understand what is expected of them and are going above and beyond to meet and exceed the goals set for them even in times of economic difficulty."

Of the 58 NC Community Colleges, 24 met all eight performance standards, with 11 of those colleges meeting "Exceptional Institutional Performance (EIP)" standards in the 2010 report. The exceptional rating indicates the colleges met or exceeded:

- All eight system standards
- The college performance rates of students who began in, rather than transferred into, the UNC System
- At least a 70 percent passing rate for students who sit for a licensure or certification exam for the first time

The EIP colleges in the 2010 report were Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Blue Ridge Community College, Coastal Carolina Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Piedmont Community College, Randolph Community College, Rockingham Community College, Southwestern Community College, Surry Community College, Wayne Community College, and Western Piedmont Community College.

For more than 20 years, the NC Community College System annually assesses its 58 colleges based on a variety of indicators related to service, student success and performance during the previous academic year. Over time, the assessment has evolved into eight core accountability standards. In addition to the three areas listed previously, the colleges are expected to meet system standards in progress of basic skills students, passing rates on licensure and certification examinations, performance of college transfer students, passing rates of students in developmental courses, and client satisfaction with small business center services. Any college not achieving any of the eight standards is required to submit an action plan for improving performance to the State Board of Community Colleges.

You can find the full report and a summary at the following links:

<http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/Publications/docs/Publications/csf2010.pdf>

<http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/pr/newsreleases/2010/SUMMARY2010.pdf>

###