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Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

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

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CONTACT: Megen George georgem@nccommunitycolleges.edu

PHONE: (919) 807-6962

State Board of Community College Swears in Largest Class to Date *Governor in Attendance as Nine New Board Members Take Oath of Office*

RALEIGH – The State Board of Community Colleges and Gov. Bev Perdue welcomed nine newly appointed and reappointed members to the board today, the largest class to take the oath of office since the State Board was created in 1981. The group included four appointments from the Governor, two each from the House and the Senate and one ex officio board member.

"The work that you do for our state's community colleges is critical for the future of opportunity in North Carolina," Gov. Perdue said. "I thank you for your leadership and your volunteer service on this board that has such a tremendous impact on education across our state."

Those reappointed included Hilda Pinnix-Ragland of Raleigh, who was also re-elected State Board Chair; Dr. Linwood Powell of Fayetteville, re-elected as State Board Vice-Chair; Dr. Stuart Fountain of Asheboro and Joanne Steiner of Raleigh. New appointees were Ann Whitford of Morehead City, Dr. Sam Powell of Burlington, K. Ray Bailey of Asheville and James Woody of Roxboro. Jonathan Furnas, President of the Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA) and a student at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, was sworn in as an ex-officio member and student representative.

The Board also approved the increase in community college tuition and continuing education fees as outlined by the General Assembly under the [Continuing Budget Authority](#) which was effective July 1. The increases to tuition

and continuing education fees were approved by the board retroactively. During his presentation to the State Board, Finance and Capital Needs Committee Vice-Chair, Senator Allen Wellons said the tuition increases are “necessary to keep colleges operating in tough times.”

“Even with these increases, our tuition is still the lowest in the Southeast and among the lowest in the nation,” Wellons said. “We remain committed to keeping tuition as low as possible, but these increases are necessary if our colleges are going to keep operating and providing the services our citizens need.”

In other business, the Board approved a motion to revise the [current policy](#) in place for employees who are exempt from the State Personnel Act (EPA). The revision results in a policy that is more consistent with the one that is currently in place for State Employees (SPA). The North Carolina Community College System EPA policy has not been revised since 2002.

The State Board also approved Dr. Walter C. Bartlett as the new president of Piedmont Community College in Roxboro. Dr. Bartlett is currently Vice President of Technical Programs at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Bartlett, a ten-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, previously served at both Durham Technical Community College and Mitchell Community College, and holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The meeting opened with North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Sarah Parker and Superior Court Judge J. Osmond Smith III and Representative Bruce Goforth administering the oath of office to the nine new and returning members of the State Board.

Three of the Governor’s appointments are returning members – Pinnix-Ragland, Steiner, and Fountain. The fourth appointee, Ann Whitford was sworn in for her first six-year term as an at-large member. Whitford, a residential and commercial building contractor in Morehead City, just completed her fourth four-year term on the Board of Trustees at Carteret Community College.

Appointees from the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives were also sworn in. The Senate’s appointees include the re-appointment of Dr. Linwood Powell and newly appointed James Woody of Roxboro, returning to the Board after a four-year absence. Woody previously served from 1989 to 2005, including service as Board Chair from 2001 through 2005.

House appointees included Dr. Sam Powell, the current board chair at Alamance Community College. Powell has a strong background in biotechnology and has served on several boards related to science and technology. He currently operates Powell Enterprises in Burlington. The second appointee is K. Ray Bailey, retired President of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Bailey began work at A-B Tech as Director of Adult Basic Education in August 1966 and retired as President in 2007. He holds honorary doctorates from Mars Hill College and Western Carolina University. Furnas, the ex officio student representative, is working toward a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Programming while working part-time at Food Lion. He is involved in several community activities, including Southern Baptist Men's Disaster Relief and was a Legislative House Page in 2004 and 2005.

The next meeting of the State Board of Community Colleges is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 20 and 21.

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