



NC Community Colleges
Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

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Community College Small Business Centers Recognized for Excellence ***Gaston College's Small Business Center Receives Statewide Award***

RALEIGH – The NC Community Colleges' Small Business Center Network recognized three community college small business centers for excellence in economic development, job retention and job creation at a recent meeting of the State Board of Community Colleges.

“The NC Community Colleges' Small Business Center Network is one of the largest, state-funded small business assistance networks in the nation,” said Dr. Scott Ralls, NC Community College System President. “The contribution they make to communities and individuals across the state is vital to North Carolina's economic recovery.”

During 2008-09, Small Business Centers, located at each of the 58 community colleges, provided high-quality entrepreneurship training to 66,500 individuals with a 94% satisfaction rating, and critical one-on-one counseling to an additional 5,780 individuals, 53% of whom were considering starting a business and 47% were already operating businesses. From 2008-09, 536 businesses were started, 1,826 jobs were created, and 1,521 jobs were retained.

“The Small Business Center Network has the opportunity to make North Carolina the best small business state,” said Scott Daugherty, NC Commissioner of Small Business. “Community college small business centers are a wonderful platform to increase the numbers of locally owned businesses throughout the state.”

In order to be considered for the awards, small business centers must meet specific criteria set forth in annual reporting guidelines. A committee composed of statewide leaders in the entrepreneurship field selects Regional winners and an overall State winner.

- [College of The Albemarle was selected for the Small Business Center Network Award – Eastern Region](#)
- [Rowan-Cabarrus Community College was selected for the Small Business Center Network Award – Central Region](#)
- [Gaston College was selected for the Small Business Center Network Award – Western Region and Statewide](#)

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