



NC Community Colleges
Hope • Opportunity • Jobs

Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

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

RELEASE DATE: April 14, 2011 [Embargoed until 2 p.m., April 14, 2011]

CONTACT: Megen Hoenk hoenkm@nccommunitycolleges.edu

PHONE: (919) 807-6962

North Carolina Community Colleges Celebrate Excellence *Dr. Bob H. Greene Receives I.E. Ready Award*

RALEIGH – NC Community Colleges honored more than 65 individuals during its 2011 Excellence Event, “The Great Within the 58” this afternoon at the Jane S. McKimmon Conference and Training Center on NC State University’s campus. The awards luncheon was part of a weeklong celebration of “North Carolina Community College Excellence in Education,” as [proclaimed](#) by Governor Bev Perdue.

“Excellence occurs every day at each of our 58 community colleges,” said Dr. Scott Ralls, NC Community College System President. “While we continue to serve more students with fewer resources, the people we recognized today are shining examples of how community college staff, faculty and administration continue to pull together and offer hope to the students who enter our doors looking for new opportunities and new beginnings.”

The luncheon event included the presentation of the I.E. Ready Award to **Dr. Bob H. Greene**, former president of Forsyth Technical Community College and former State Board Member, for his dedication to North Carolina’s community colleges and education in North Carolina. Dr. Greene, who spent his 40-year career working in education, served as president of Forsyth Technical Community College from 1981 until 1995. Governor Jim Hunt appointed him to the State Board of Community Colleges one month after his retirement from the college, and he served on the State Board from 1995 to 2009.

The I.E. Ready Award, the highest honor bestowed by the State Board of Community Colleges, was created in 1983 to recognize individuals who have made significant, statewide contributions to the establishment, development or enhancement of the N.C. Community College System. The award is named for the late Isaac Epps Ready, the first state director of the System.

In addition to Dr. Greene and the student awards for academic excellence, leadership, art excellence and achievement, the State Board honored the recipients of the President of the Year, the Excellence in Teaching, the Staff of the Year and Distinguished Partners in Excellence awards:.

Dr. Patricia Skinner, president of Gaston College, [was named the System's tenth Wells Fargo President of the Year](#). Dr. Skinner has served as President of Gaston College for almost 17 years. During this time, the college has experienced one of the largest and most rapid enrollment growths in its history. Nearly 30,000 curriculum and continuing education students now attend the college annually. Under her leadership, Gaston College has opened nine new buildings and obtained donations of over \$ 17.5 million.

Marian Dillahunt-Andrews, Developmental Studies Instructor of English and Reading at Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC), [was named this year's R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Teaching Award recipient](#). Established in 1985 by the State Board of Community Colleges, the Excellence in Teaching Award provides recognition to full-time teachers who exemplify the highest standards of instruction and professionalism in the classroom and who consistently demonstrate excellence in service to their colleges and communities. Dillahunt-Andrews has taught developmental studies English and reading at VGCC since 2005. Prior to that, she taught part-time at other community colleges within the system.

Mark W. Best, Director of Workforce Readiness and Special Programs at Craven Community College (CCC), was the [recipient of the BB&T Staff Person of the Year Award](#). The award, established by the State Board in 2001, recognizes excellent performance and commitment to the community college mission by the non-teaching staff of the 58 colleges among the N.C. Community College System and the System Office. Best has worked at CCC for 25 years. He has made it his personal mission to educate citizens within the college's service area about opportunities to enhance their lives available at CCC. He also serves as a mentor to the college's Minority Male Empowerment Group.

Jackson & Sons Heating and Air Conditioning, owned by David and Danny Jackson of Dudley, N.C., and **Wayne Community College (WCC)** in Goldsboro, were named Distinguished Partners in Excellence. The State Board of Community Colleges established the award in November 2005 to honor an exemplary employer, business or industry group that has demonstrated decisive involvement and a firm commitment to the professional development of its employees and/or to the development of North Carolina's workforce through its partnership efforts with one or more of the 58 community colleges.

The Jackson brothers, natives of Wayne County and co-owners of Jackson & Sons, a business started in 1974 by their father, Woodard Jackson, continue to support WCC as their father had before them. The Jacksons send its employees to WCC for continuing education, is the lead sponsor of the Wayne Community College Foundation's annual golf tournament, serve on the advisory board of the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program, and, most importantly, support students by providing scholarships.

Three students were invited to address the audience of nearly 600 during the afternoon's festivities. In addition to sharing their stories, they also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the NC Community College Foundation made possible by Excellence Event sponsors.

Brenda Lopez Benitez, a graduate of Randolph Community College and currently at student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was named the Dallas Herring Achievement Award recipient. The award was established by the North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP) in 2010 to honor the late Dr. Dallas Herring, one of the state's earliest advocates of community colleges. The award is bestowed annually upon a current or former student who best embodies Dr. Herring's philosophy of "taking people where they are and carrying them as far as they can go."

Donna McNally, a student at Durham Technical Community College, is the 2010 recipient of the Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award. The award, sponsored by the NCACCP, was created in 2004 to recognize student leadership on a statewide level while also honoring former Governor Scott, one of the earliest supporters of the system and the fourth system president from 1983 until 1994.

Fifty-eight students, one from each community college, received Academic Excellence Awards (AEA) . **Herman Shurmont "Monty" Hall**, from McDowell Technical Community College was selected to represent all 58 Academic Excellence Award recipients and to share his community college experience Each student, listed below, received a plaque and medallion in honor of their accomplishments.

Chad Joseph Mills, Alamance Community College

Cynthia Schwartz, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

Kelli Renee Lozano, Beaufort County Community College

Ashleigh Hester, Bladen Community College

Kelly Ann Drake, Blue Ridge Community College

Harvey W. "Trey" Gaskins, III, Brunswick Community College

Tyler Spence, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

Christina Bergemann, Cape Fear Community College

Danielle Lynn Garner, Carteret Community College

Tiffany Lambert, Catawba Valley Community College

Dana Stone, Central Carolina Community College

Crystal Carson, Central Piedmont Community College

Paula Williams, Cleveland Community College

Amanda Diaz Harrison, Coastal Carolina Community College

Abigail L. Morris, College of The Albemarle

Jimmy Fulcher, Jr., Craven Community College

Dailian Silverio, Davidson County Community College

Kelly E. Inman, Durham Technical Community College

Stephen Howard, Edgecombe Community College

Brandon A. Burney, Fayetteville Technical Community College

Mark Perew, Forsyth Technical Community College

Sharon Hill, Gaston College

Amanda Spain, Guilford Technical Community College

Brian Dorn, Halifax Community College

Justin Dylan Stocker, Haywood Community College

Charles Ray Roach, Isothermal Community College

James Seth Jackson Grady, James Sprunt Community College

Rusty Mitchiner, Johnston Community College

Jennifer Barr, Lenoir Community College

Gail J. Wilson, Martin Community College

Bobbie Faith Ernst, Mayland Community College

Herman Shurmont "Monty" Hall, McDowell Technical Community College

Sue Spath, Mitchell Community College

Morgan Lindsey Walter, Montgomery Community College

Lauren Ashley Bradshaw, Nash Community College

LaTanya Bryant, Pamlico Community College

Jonitta Davis, Piedmont Community College

Jason M. Donica, Pitt Community College

David L. Jordan, Randolph Community College

Natalie A. Barbour, Richmond Community College
Raymond Mosley, Roanoke-Chowan Community College
Ross Locklear, Robeson Community College
Dale Earles Jones, Rockingham Community College
Karen Reynolds, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Jairo Najera, Sampson Community College
Christina Marie May, Sandhills Community College
Micah L. Eubanks, South Piedmont Community College
Lori Hotte, Southeastern Community College

Nanci Sherley, Southwestern Community College
Scott Evan Daniels, Stanly Community College
Sharon B. Walker, Surry Community College
Corey Patrick Olsen, Tri-County Community College
Jeffrey Canada, Vance-Granville Community College
MiShelle Devereaux, Wake Technical Community College
Terry L. Jones, Wayne Community College
Tea Yang, Western Piedmont Community College
James D. Drake, Wilkes Community College
Dennis Cornell Alston, Wilson Community College

System Office employees recognized during the event included Ms. Bobbie Lancaster, a System Office employee for 47 years who received the Richard Caswell Award this fall, and Darice McDougald and Mike Flynt, recipients of the NC Community College System's President's Award.

Also recognized were winners of the 2011 NC Community Colleges Art Exhibition:

- **First Place: Megan Wood**, student at Wake Technical Community College, for "Target," medium: paper pulp of U.S.M.C. uniform;
- **Second Place: Logan Benfield**, student at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, for "Reflection," medium: intaglio print;
- **Third Place: Johnathan Harris**, student at Fayetteville Technical Community College, for "Weiss," medium: aluminum sheet metal and rivets.

In addition to representation from all 58 community colleges, attendees at the Excellence Event included legislators, state education leaders, community college partners, and past and present members of the State Board of Community Colleges.

###