



NC Community Colleges
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PRESS RELEASE

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Five NC Community Colleges Ranked among Nation's Top 120 Colleges Eligible to Compete for \$1 Million Aspen Prize

RALEIGH – Five North Carolina community colleges were ranked in the nation's top ten percent by the Aspen Institute's Community College Excellence Program. The Institute made the [announcement](#) Monday, April 25, that [Cleveland Community College](#), [Coastal Carolina Community College](#), [Davidson County Community College](#), [James Sprunt Community College](#) and [Surry Community College](#) were selected from a national pool of nearly 1,200. The selection process is based on publicly available data on student outcomes including performance, improvement and equity.

The 120 colleges named by the Aspen Institute now go on to compete for the \$1 million fund for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. A jury will select eight to ten finalists. One will be named in December to receive a grand prize \$700,000, with two to three runners up dividing up the remaining \$300,000.

For more information regarding the Aspen Prize and the Aspen Institute, visit the organization's website, <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/>.

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