



Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **North Carolina Community College System Partners with Researchers to Track Employment Outcomes for Community College Students**

RALEIGH – North Carolina’s Community College System has entered a partnership to advance knowledge regarding the link between post-secondary education and employment. A five-year study will link student transcripts with state employment data. The study, conducted under the auspices of a new federally-funded research body, **Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE)**, will shed light on labor market outcomes for tens of thousands of students pursuing a variety of postsecondary pathways at community colleges across the state.

Dr. Arne Kalleberg, a professor of sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill and a lead researcher for the study, says he will pay particular attention to whether community colleges can help North Carolina workers transition from low skill to high skill jobs as the state moves from a manufacturing economy to one based in industries like biotechnology. “North Carolina has seen a big increase in structural unemployment,” said Dr. Kalleberg at CAPSEE’s kick-off meeting in New York City. “Community colleges are a possible solution.”

Dr. Kalleberg will conduct the research in collaboration with Dr. Clive Belfield of the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Teachers College, Columbia University, and will work in close partnership with NC Community Colleges and the State of North Carolina. The detailed data on thousands of North Carolina students will permit the researchers to draw conclusions about the benefits and/or disadvantages of remedial education, associate and bachelor’s degrees, vocational and technical study, non-credit programs and attending college part-time.

“More knowledge about how postsecondary education benefits students is critical in a period of extreme resource restriction,” says Dr. Sharon Morrissey, Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer for the North Carolina Community College System. “There is no money for

new initiatives. CAPSEE will let us use our data to make strategic decisions and allow our dollars to go as far as possible.”

CAPSEE, led by CCRC at Teachers College, Columbia University, is funded by a \$9,951,362 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and is comprised of partnerships between five states (North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Michigan, Ohio) and researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill, CCRC, Harvard, Stanford and the University of Michigan.

To learn more about the center and the scope of the research, please visit, <http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Publication.asp?uid=952>.

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