



Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

## PRESS RELEASE

200 West Jones Street ■ Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 ■ [www.nccommunitycolleges.edu](http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu)

---

RELEASE DATE: June 9, 2011

CONTACT: Megen Hoenk [hoenkm@nccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:hoenkm@nccommunitycolleges.edu)

PHONE: (919) 807-6962

### NC Community Colleges Continue Success in Licensure Exam Pass Rates, College Transfer Performance

#### *Twelve Colleges Meet "Exceptional" Standards*

RALEIGH – NC Community Colleges have maintained a consistent passing rate for the past three years on licensure and certification exams, community college transfer students continue to perform as well as or better than native UNC sophomores and juniors, and 12 NC Community Colleges met standards of Exceptional Institutional Performance, according to the 2011 Critical Success Factors report.

The annual report is the NC Community College System's method of tracking the performance of the state's community colleges, as mandated by the General Assembly. The report compiles data related to eight performance measures. For the third year in a row, 86 percent of first-time test takers passed licensure and certification exams. The system standard is 80 percent. For the 2009-10 academic year, 87 percent of NC Community College students who transferred to the UNC System performed as well as, or better than native UNC System students, up from 86 percent the previous year and above the System standard of 83 percent.

Of the 58 N.C. community colleges, 26 met all eight performance standards, with 12 of those colleges receiving recognition for Exceptional Institutional Performance (EIP). The exceptional rating indicates:

- A college met or exceeded all eight performance measures
- A college received at least a 70 percent passing rate on all licensure exams for first-time test takers
- Students transferring from that college into the UNC System perform at a level equal to or above native UNC System students

“Over the past three years, our community colleges have enrolled more students than ever before and have stretched limited dollars to meet the demand,” said N.C. Community College System President, Dr. Scott Ralls. “Yet, even under the strain of increased enrollment and reduced funding, we have continued to focus our efforts on student success and completion. The outcomes of these performance measures demonstrate the quality of education and training NC Community Colleges provide in a time when North Carolina needs it most.”

EIP colleges for 2011 were Coastal Carolina Community College, Davidson County Community College, Forsyth Technical Community College, Mitchell Community College, Randolph Community College, Richmond Community College, Sampson Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Southwestern Community College, Stanly Community College, Surry Community College and Western Piedmont Community College.

The NC Community College System and State Board of Community Colleges have annually assessed the performance of the state’s community colleges for more than 20 years. Over time, the assessment has evolved into eight core accountability standards: progress of basic skills students, passing rates on licensure and certification examinations, performance of college transfer students, passing rates of students in developmental courses, success rates of developmental students in subsequent college-level courses, satisfaction of program completers and non-completers, curriculum student retention, and client satisfaction with customized training. Any college not achieving any of the eight standards is required to submit an action plan for improving performance to the State Board of Community Colleges.

In 2010, as part of NC Community Colleges’ strategic planning initiative, SuccessNC, President Scott Ralls appointed members to a Performance Measures Committee to review the current performance measures and recommend changes to the State Board of Community Colleges and eventually to the General Assembly. Pending approval by the State Board and the General Assembly, these changes will be reflected in the 2013 report.

You can find the full report on the NC Community Colleges Website, <http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/Publications/docs/Publications/csf2011.pdf>.

###