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MEDIA ADVISORY: NC Community Colleges Celebrate Excellence

RALEIGH – All 58 of North Carolina’s community colleges will celebrate excellence in education Thursday, April 14 during “The Great Within the 58” Excellence Event, honoring students including Academic Excellence Award recipients from each college, the Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award recipient and the Dallas Herring Achievement Award recipient. The event will also honor Distinguished Partners in Excellence, Staff of the Year, Excellence in Teaching, President of the Year and the prestigious I.E. Ready Award recipient, the highest honor bestowed by the State Board of Community Colleges.

The event is part of a week-long celebration of “North Carolina Community College Excellence in Education,” as [proclaimed](#) by Governor Bev Perdue. Nearly 600 community college students, presidents, trustees, partners and supporters are scheduled to attend the event that is supported solely by non-state funds.

What: NC Community Colleges Excellence Event, “**The Great Within the 58**”

When: Thursday, April 14, 2011, 12:30 p.m.

Where: Jane S. McKimmon Conference and Training Center, NC State University,
1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, N.C.

Media will have the opportunity to interview students, if scheduled in advance, and hear their stories of how NC Community Colleges helped them achieve and prepare for their life goals. Interviews may also be possible with the State Board Award recipients listed below, if scheduled in advance.

Who:

- **Dr. Bob H. Greene**, former president of Forsyth Technical Community College and former member of the State Board of Community Colleges, is the recipient of the I.E. Ready Award. The award, named for the first Director of what was then the NC Department of Community Colleges, Isaac Epps Ready, is the highest honor bestowed by the State Board of Community Colleges.
- Wells Fargo President of the Year, **Dr. Patricia Skinner**, Gaston College, Dallas, N.C.

- R.J. Reynolds Excellence in Teaching Award, **Marian Dillahunt-Andrews**, developmental English and reading instructor, Vance-Granville Community College, Henderson, N.C.
- Staff of the Year, **Mark W. Best**, director of workforce readiness and special programs, Craven Community College, New Bern, N.C.
- Distinguished Partners in Excellence: **Jackson & Sons Heating and Air Conditioning**, Dudley, N.C., and **Wayne Community College**, Goldsboro, N.C.
- The 58 students selected to receive Academic Excellence Awards.
- **Brenda Lopez Benitez**, a former Randolph Community College student, will receive the Dallas Herring Achievement Award, bestowed upon current or former students who best embody Dr. Herring's philosophy of "taking people from where they are and carrying them as far as they can go." This award was established in 2010 by the N.C. Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP).
- Durham Technical Community College student **Donna McNally** will receive the Governor Robert W. Scott Student Leadership Award, established by the NCACCP, in honor of the former governor and system president by recognizing the statewide leadership efforts of a current student.

Additional information about the awards and recipients can be found on the [NC Community Colleges Excellence Event Web page](#).

For additional information or to set up individual interviews in advance, contact Megen Hoenk, (919) 807-6962.

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