



Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **State Board Unanimously Opposes Potential Mergers *New Board Members Take Oath of Office***

RALEIGH – The State Board of Community Colleges unanimously passed a [motion](#) today stating their opposition to the proposed merger of 22 community colleges. The potential mergers are a recommendation from an [efficiency study](#) conducted by the General Assembly’s Program Evaluation Division.

In the motion, the Board noted, “We will continue to be, as the report noted, an efficient form of education, but we do not believe savings identified from these potential mergers would in any way compensate for the transformational changes this recommendation would have on our system and our state.”

The Board welcomed three new members, Jann Lowder of Albemarle, Dr. Darrell Saunders of Archdale and Phillip Markovich of Durham. Both Lowder and Saunders were appointees of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Markovich is president of the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA) and is an ex-officio member of the State Board. He is a student at Durham Technical Community College.

Both Markovich and Saunders received the oath of office from N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Paul Newby. Lowder received the oath of office from N.C. House Representative Justin Burr, whose 67<sup>th</sup> District includes Montgomery, Stanly and Union counties.

Members whose terms have ended include Naomi Daggs of Rockingham and Raichelle “Rai” Glover of Charlotte, Jimmie Ford of Goldsboro, Earl Laws, Jr., outgoing N4CSGA president, Chester “Chet” Middlesworth of Statesville and Herbert “Herb” Watkins of Charlotte. Ford is eligible for reappointment by Governor Bev Perdue while Middlesworth and Watkins have reached their term limits. All three will remain on the Board until new appointments are made.

The outgoing board members received Board resolutions recognizing their service and dedication to the NC Community College System. Additionally, the N.C. Community College Information System was named the Herbert L. Watkins College Information System in honor of the leadership he provided during the project's development and implementation.

In other business, the Board approved the [2011-12 state aid allocations and budget policies](#) for all 58 colleges.

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