



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

April 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Financial Aid Officers

From: Karen Yerby, Associate Director
Student Development Services

Subject: **Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges**

This Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges provides grants for curriculum degree seeking students and occupational education students to be applied toward their tuition, registration fees, and related expenses at the community college where they are enrolled. During the spring funding period for the Golden LEAF Scholars Program, \$210,500 was awarded to 303 students from 24 colleges.

Summer 2008 funding is budgeted at \$85,000 and awards are **limited to four (4) students per college at \$700 for curriculum students and \$200 for occupational education students**. Scholarships will be need and merit based on a **first-come, first-serve basis**. Each college's summer award list must be received in the System Office by **May 28, 2007**.

To be eligible, a community college student must:

- Be a permanent resident of one of the 73 eligible counties as designated by the Golden LEAF Foundation. (Attachment I)
- Show financial need. All students will be required to disclose other financial aid awards in order for funding to meet the needs of the broad population of students.
 - Curriculum students should demonstrate a need based on FAFSA information.
 - Occupational Extension students should demonstrate a need under federal TRIO formula. (Attachment II) This criterion will be used so occupational education students will not need to file a Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA).
- Degree seeking students must be enrolled half-time for a full award. Less than half-time students may be considered pending the availability of funds.

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Finalists meeting all the eligibility criteria will undergo a separate “merit” competition. Selection is based on:

- The effect of the decline in the tobacco industry on his or her family
- The effect of the declining economy on his or her family
- Academic record
- Overall evaluation of the application
- Leadership and community service

Application Process

- Students will file a Golden LEAF Scholars application (Attachment III). Applications will be filed with college financial aid offices and should **NOT** be sent to North Carolina Community College System. Applications do not need to be completed for each award period.
- Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the Golden LEAF application prior to each deadline.
- Applicants will complete the waiver form (Attachment IV) for use of their social security numbers. (*Social security numbers will be used for tracking purposes only.*)
- Financial Aid Offices will determine eligibility and appoint a selection committee comprised of college personnel from various areas of the college to review student applications. (Each college should determine a method to collect family income data for Occupational Education students.)
- The committee will **select up to four students** for awards and select award amounts. Individual award amounts are set at the discretion of the college up to \$700 for curriculum students and \$200 for occupational education students per semester. Primary consideration should be given to students from families adversely affected by the decline in the tobacco industry.
- The committee will meet at least once during the award semesters and on an as-needed basis throughout the year.
- Financial Aid Offices will provide an Excel spreadsheet of selected recipients, not to exceed four, including name, award amounts, and use of funds to NCCCS. (Attachment V) May 28 is the deadline for student award lists to be sent to NCCCS for spring awards.
- Financial Aid Officers will separately mail hard copies of social security numbers and waiver forms to Karen Yerby, NCCCS, 5016 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-5016.
- NCCCS will transfer funds to the colleges for disbursement to student recipients.
- Colleges may redistribute funds caused by student withdrawal or other circumstances to other eligible students. Colleges must provide NCCCS with the new student’s name, award amount, use of funds, social security number and waiver form.

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Applications for the Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges will be posted on the internet at www.CFNC.org and the NCCCS website. **The funds in this program will be distributed to the colleges on a first-come, first-serve basis. Information from the colleges regarding award recipients will be dated upon arrival and funds will be disbursed accordingly.** Ten percent of the budgeted funds will be held in reserve until needed, per agreement with the NCCCS State Board.

Due to a request by the Golden LEAF Foundation, we have begun tracking recipients through social security numbers to show that funds are being used to assist students in completing their educational goals and becoming productive citizens of North Carolina. State law (Session Law 2005-414) states that we must have permission to use social security numbers, which is why we are including a waiver form.

Questions concerning the program should be directed to Karen Yerby at (919) 807-7107 or yerbyk@nccommunitycolleges.edu .

c: Presidents
Student Development Administrators
Chief Business Officers
Chief Continuing Education Officers
Mr. Fred Williams
Dr. Delores A. Parker
Mr. Kennon Briggs
Mrs. Alice Smith
Mr. Van Wilson
Ms. Wanda White
Dr. Steven Brooks

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Attachment I

2008 Eligible Counties of Residence

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Alleghany | Granville | Pitt |
| Anson | Greene | Polk |
| Ashe | Halifax | Richmond |
| Avery | Harnett | Robeson |
| Beaufort | Haywood | Rockingham |
| Bertie | Hertford | Rutherford |
| Bladen | Hoke | Sampson |
| Burke | Hyde | Scotland |
| Caldwell | Johnston | Stanly |
| Camden | Jones | Stokes |
| Carteret | Lee | Surry |
| Caswell | Lenoir | Swain |
| Cherokee | Macon | Transylvania |
| Chowan | Madison | Tyrrell |
| Clay | Martin | Vance |
| Cleveland | McDowell | Warren |
| Columbus | Mitchell | Washington |
| Craven | Montgomery | Watauga |
| Currituck | Nash | Wayne |
| Dare | Northampton | Wilkes |
| Duplin | Onslow | Wilson |
| Edgecombe | Pamlico | Yadkin |
| Franklin | Pasquotank | Yancey |
| Gates | Perquimans | |
| Graham | Person | |

Attachment II

**Federal TRIO Programs
2007 Annual Low Income Levels**

(Effective February 2007 Until Further Notice)

| Size of Family Unit | 48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions | Alaska | Hawaii |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | \$15,315 | \$19,155 | \$17,625 |
| 2 | \$20,535 | \$25,680 | \$23,625 |
| 3 | \$25,755 | \$32,205 | \$29,625 |
| 4 | \$30,975 | \$38,730 | \$35,625 |
| 5 | \$36,195 | \$45,255 | \$41,625 |
| 6 | \$41,415 | \$51,780 | \$47,625 |
| 7 | \$46,635 | \$58,305 | \$53,625 |
| 8 | \$51,855 | \$64,830 | \$59,625 |

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$5,220 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$6,525 for Alaska; and \$6,000 for Hawaii.

The term "low-income individual" means an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount.

The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 15, January 24, 2007, pp. 3147-3148.

The North Carolina Community College System

GOLDEN LEAF SCHOLARS PROGRAM – TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Application

Application Instructions: Complete this application and return completed application to the college's Financial Aid Office. Occupational education students must also submit a copy of their transcript with their application. Please write legibly.

I. Personal Information:

- 1) Name _____
 First Middle Last

- 2) Mailing Address _____
 Street, P. O. Box City State Zip

- 3) College of attendance _____

- 4) U. S. Citizen? Yes ___ No ___ If not, U.S. permanent resident? Yes ___ No ___

- 5) Are you a North Carolina resident? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, how many years? ___

- 6) What is your NC **county** of permanent residence? _____
 I have been a resident of the **county** previously designated for a least six months. Yes ___ No ___

- 7) Employer _____ Telephone _____

- 8) Name of Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years of age) _____
 Address of Parent or Guardian _____

- 9) Are you currently receiving other educational financial assistance?
 Yes ___ No ___ If yes, what type? _____

- 10) Enrollment Status:
 _____ Curriculum Student – Major _____
 _____ Occupational Education Student – Program _____

II. Please respond to each question below using the space available:

- 1) How has your job or your parent(s) job been adversely affected by the decline of the tobacco industry. _____

- 2) Are there other circumstances that demonstrate your need for educational assistance?: _____

- 3) List educationally related costs associated with participation in your program/course of choice. Educational assistance maximums are \$200 per term for non-credit occupational education programs and \$700 per term for credit, curriculum programs/courses. _____

- 4) Please list all leadership and/or community activities you are currently involved in. _____

- 5) Please attach a high school or college transcript (occupational education students only) for any courses taken in the last five years. If you have not been enrolled in high school or college in the last five years, please place an "X" here _____.
- 6) Please place an "X" on the blank beside the intended use of these funds, if awarded.
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Tuition & Fees _____ | Books & Supplies _____ |
| Transportation _____ | Other _____ |

I have read and understand the requirements for assistance. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

- 7) _____
Applicant's Signature Date

For Official Use Only

Financial Aid Office:

Total aid awarded for curriculum enrollment \$ _____ # of hrs. _____

Total aid awarded for occupational education enrollment \$ _____

Major or Occupational Education Program: _____

Tuition _____ Textbooks _____

Supplies _____ Other _____

Financial Aid Officer

Date

Selection Committee

Date Denied

Date Approved

Award Amount

Attachment IV

**Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges
Social Security Number Waiver Form**

College: _____

Student Name: _____

The Golden LEAF Foundation has requested that students receiving funds from the Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges, be tracked for graduation and employment status. Student social security numbers will be used **only** for this purpose. This information will have no bearing on the selection process for this grant program. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and state law (Session Law 2005-414) require permission to be given for social security numbers to be used for this purpose.

Please check the statement that applies.

_____ I hereby give my permission for my social security number to be used for tracking purposes only in relation to the Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges.

_____ I **do not** give permission for my social security number to be used for any purpose relating to the Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges.

Student Signature

Date

Financial Aid Officer

Date

Financial Aid Officer - The student's social security number must be listed on the attached separate page only. Please mail both pages of this waiver form for each selected recipient to Karen Yerby, 5016 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699.

**Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges
Social Security Number Waiver Form**

Student's Social Security Number: _____ -- _____ -- _____

Student Signature

Date

Attachment V

| EXAMPLE * EXAMPLE * EXAMPLE | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Summer 2008 Golden LEAF Scholars Program | | |
| Vance-Granville Community College | | |
| County/Student Name | Amount | Use of Funds |
| Granville County | | |
| Perfection, Andrew | \$ 700.00 | tuition, fees, books, supplies and other |
| Sweetpea, Jane | \$ 700.00 | tuition & fees |
| Vance County | | |
| Goodguy, Charles | \$ 600.00 | transportation & supplies |
| Studios, Tomeka | \$ 200.00 | tuition, fees & books |
| Total | \$2,200.00 | |