

**President's Report
To the
State Board of Community Colleges
August 19, 2005**

For the last couple of weeks we have felt like a yo-yo around here as the budget process has gone up and down several times. However, in the end this is one of our best years ever. In addition to receiving full funding for our enrollment growth of more than \$7.8 million, we received additional funding in several high priority areas.

Our biotechnology initiative, which had been funded for two years with tobacco settlement money, was picked up by the state in the amount of \$7.1 million per year. Since 1958 we have had the New and Expanding Industry Program as our primary industry recruitment incentive. However, we had no way to assist companies that might be reducing their workforce, but making significant capital investments and needing trained workers to use the new technology. Under a new Customized Industry Training Program, which was funded at \$2.6 million, we will be able to provide free customized training for those companies to keep them viable and to keep them in our state. We received \$1 million for our Small Business Center Network to enhance our entrepreneurial training programs.

At the request of LEA's and our community colleges we have pursued a role for community colleges in teacher preparation and received a legislative mandate for a new program of lateral entry to be offered by our community colleges. A \$1 million appropriation to our System and a \$1 million appropriation to the University System will further support development of 2+2 programs in teacher preparation with the funds to focus on distance education, professional development, and technology development and purchases. This appropriation resulted from the Task Force Chairman James Woody and Chairman Brad Wilson appointed on NCCCS/UNC cooperation.

Unfortunately, our tuition went up for a fourth year in a row; we will now charge \$632 per semester for a full-time student. After several years of System Office personnel cuts, for the first time we received five new positions (two of which are restoring positions previously lost). Special appropriations totaling \$19,725,000 went to a number of our colleges for programs and facilities.

Dr. Reginald Ponder, the President of Louisburg College, and I have been meeting to explore ways that the one remaining private two-year college in North Carolina and our Community College System can cooperate and collaborate in ways that will benefit both that College and our System. Dr. Randy Parker of Vance-Granville Community College and his staff have been involved as well. I hope to have some exciting proposals for your consideration in the not too distant future.

The Presidents' Association had an excellent annual summer meeting in Cherokee in which most of your senior staff participated.

The Strategic Planning Process was kicked off at Alamance Community College with other regional meetings to follow. I spoke briefly at this environmental scanning session and thanked stakeholders from business and industry, government, other educational agencies, etc., for their help.

Much time has been spent since your last meeting by several of the senior staff in dealing with the continuing challenges of Halifax Community College.

We are proud to have Jim Cain, Raleigh attorney, appointed as Ambassador to Denmark. Ambassador Cain and I visited Novozymes, the largest Danish-owned company in North Carolina, prior to his departure. I also participated in his swearing-in ceremony last week.

I hosted Bob Wise, a former colleague in Congress who became Governor of West Virginia, when he visited North Carolina week before last to learn more about high school reform efforts in our state. He is now heading an organization in Washington, DC, focused on high school reform. He was very impressed with what public schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions are doing to improve the high school experience across the state.

Your new Chair and Vice Chair met with Richard Sullins and me to discuss the coming year and committee assignments.

I spoke at the American Association of Community Colleges' Leadership Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, and attended the meeting of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, earlier this week.

Yesterday while you were in the Issues Luncheon, I met with Congressman Brad Miller who is providing leadership to create a Community College Caucus in Congress. He will serve as the Co-Chair. I am pleased that a North Carolina Congressman has taken this initiative and see great things coming from this caucus.

Several long-standing and valuable employees of the North Carolina Community College System retired since we last met: Chuck Barham, Associate Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development; Glynda Lawrence, our Chief Auditor; Peggy Graham in the Economic and Workforce Development Division; Larry Morgan in the Business and Finance Division; and Joe Barefoot, Kathy Overton, and Malissa Oakley in the Administration Division. Dr. Neil McLeod, the first female community college president in North Carolina, a former System Office employee, and most recently Vice President of Wake Technical Community College, also retired. All of these long-standing employees will be greatly missed. We are finding it exceedingly difficult to attract people of comparable quality at the salaries we are now able to pay. We will certainly want to focus on this important issue at our retreat.

Dr. Larry Keen and Dr. Scott Ralls represented our System at a United Kingdom/US Community College Conference in Tarrytown, New York. According to the participants they were "awed" by the breadth and depth of our System and the collaboration between the state system and the local colleges.

Dr. Keen and I participated in a teleconference with community college leaders in Pennsylvania who wish to make colleges in that state more effective in economic development. They seemed impressed with our comprehensive system as well.

We are excited about the North Carolina Career Readiness Certificate implementation. Dr. Keen and Dr. Stephanie Deese gave a presentation on this new certificate program to the Workforce Development Commission.

Dr. Delores Parker gave a System update to the Edgecombe Community College Board of Trustees at its retreat and was the commencement speaker at Western Piedmont Community College's summer graduation.

Seven hundred and fifty people attended the 2005 Basic Skills and Family Literacy Conference held in Charlotte. Ms. Facenia Feigl from Alamance Community College was named "Instructor of the Year" and Mrs. Elena Fernandes from the Washington County Family Learning Center was named "Student of the Year." Wilkes Community College won the award for the "Best Overall Program."

Mr. Fred Williams and Dr. Saundra Williams participated in the IIP's Conference in Charlotte attended by 310 people from around the System.

We continue to work through an Interagency Subcommittee on Staff Development with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as we plan our partnership with that Department for educating juveniles committed in that system.

Alice Smith, Annette Dishner and their teams successfully completed the closing of the books on fiscal year 2004-05. As always, they performed admirably in this tedious, but important endeavor.

Thanks to Kennon Briggs' great work with the Office of State Budget and Management, our System was able to carry forward into the next fiscal year over \$25 million unspent last year. These funds will be used in the CIS Project, the purchase of equipment and books, the training of employees for New and Expanding Industries, and rewarding our colleges for their fine performance on our Critical Success Factors.

Much of the success of this year's budget is directly the result of the hard work of Kennon Briggs and his team and the tenacious work of Suzanne Williams.

Kennon was also a commencement speaker this summer at Rockingham Community College.

Dr. Saundra Williams and her staff are to be commended that the 15 colleges in Phase 2A of the CIS Project are using the student system to register their students. We are now on track to complete the CIS implementation with the Phase 2B and 2C colleges. This is an accomplishment to be celebrated. At the Presidents' Association meeting the Information Systems for the Future Steering Committee and the Presidents' Association formally recognized the Phase 1 colleges for their extensive and exhausting work in being pilots in the implementation of the CIS Project.

Dr. Williams and Dr. Larry Norris participated in the National Science Foundation focus group on "Staying Competitive by Strengthening Connections." This initiative will focus on collaborations and successful partnerships of 2-year information technology graduates with business and industry.

Thank you again for all that you did in lobbying legislators on behalf of our System's legislative priorities. Clearly the success we enjoyed would not have been possible without your hard work.