

**Physical Education – Coaching  
Scholarship Loan Program  
First Annual Report to the  
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
March 1, 2006**

**"§ 116-209.36. Physical Education – Coaching Scholarship Loan Fund.**

(a) *There is established the Physical Education – Coaching Scholarship Loan Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship loans to students who are pursuing college degrees to become public schoolteachers and coaches or assistant coaches. Coaching Fellows shall be offered a curriculum that advances skills in physical education and coaching and that instills a strong motivation not only to remain in the coaching profession but to provide leadership in the schools where they coach. The State Education Assistance Authority shall administer the Fund. The Fund shall provide 25 scholarship loans per year.*

(b) *Criteria for awarding the scholarship loans shall be developed by the State Education Assistance Authority in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and shall include all of the following:*

- (1) *An applicant shall be enrolled in an accredited bachelor's degree program in an institution of higher education in North Carolina.*
- (2) *All students shall enter into a legal agreement and promissory note with the Authority to accept employment as a coach or coaching assistant in an elementary or secondary school in North Carolina in exchange for receiving any funds, which agreement shall include stipulation that the student agrees to accept employment in rural or other need-based counties.*
- (3) *An applicant shall be a resident of North Carolina. For purposes of this section, residency shall be determined by the same standard as residency for tuition purposes pursuant to G.S. 116-143.1.*
- (4) *Any additional criteria that the State Education Assistance Authority considers necessary to administer the Fund effectively, including all of the following:*
  - a. *Consideration of applicants from diverse backgrounds to receive scholarships pursuant to this section.*
  - b. *Consideration of the academic qualifications of the individuals applying to receive funds.*
  - c. *Consideration of the commitment an individual applying to receive funds demonstrates to the profession of coaching.*

(c) *The State Education Assistance Authority shall: (i) prepare a clear written explanation of the Physical Education – Coaching Scholarship Loan Fund and the information regarding the availability and criteria for awarding the scholarships, and (ii) provide that information to the appropriate counselors in each local school system and shall charge those counselors to inform students about the scholarships and to encourage them to apply for the scholarships.*

(d) *The State Education Assistance Authority shall administer the Fund and shall ensure that the loan amount is limited to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per recipient per year.*

(e) *The Authority shall ensure that the following loan cancellations and repayment schedules apply to all funds distributed pursuant to this section:*

- (1) *The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who works as a school coach or coaching assistant in a rural or other need-based area of North Carolina shall have that amount of the loan cancelled that is based on the amount of time employed and the number of academic years funds were received. One full year of employment shall cancel one academic year's loan.*
- (2) *The individual who graduates with a bachelor's degree and who works as a school coach or assistant coach in a rural or other need-based area of North Carolina for the equivalent of the total number of academic years funds were received shall have the entire loan cancelled.*

- (3) *The individual who graduates with a bachelors degree and who does not work as a school coach or assistant coach in a rural or other need-based area of North Carolina for any or all of the equivalent of the number of years funds were received shall repay the loan to the Authority according to a schedule prescribed in the promissory note, plus ten percent (10%) annual interest.*
- (4) *The individual who does not graduate with a bachelor's degree shall repay the loan according to a schedule prescribed by the Authority, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) annual interest. In establishing a schedule and interest rate, the Authority shall take into consideration the reasons the individual did not graduate with a bachelor's degree.*

*The Authority shall ensure that all repayments, including accrued interest, shall be placed in the Fund.*

*The Authority may forgive or reduce any loan repayment if the Authority considers that extenuating circumstances exist that would make repayment impossible.*

*(f) The State Education Assistance Authority, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall adopt rules to implement this section.*

*(g) The State Education Assistance Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 1 each year regarding the Fund and scholarship loans awarded from the Fund."*

## **Program Establishment**

State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) officials consulted with schools of education representatives as well as UNC General Administration to establish the criteria for eligibility and selection for the Physical Education – Coaching (PEC) scholarship/loan. The State Education Assistance Authority Board of Directors approved the PEC rules on February 24, 2006.

For the 2005-06 academic year, all public universities and private non-profit four-year institutions in North Carolina with teacher education programs were solicited for nominations for the scholarship/loan.

While interest in coaching and college grade point averages are the criteria for the 2005-06 academic year, further study will be given to other criteria that will enhance the selection of PEC recipients in future years.

## **Scholarship Guidelines**

- 25 awards will be made each year valued at \$4,000 per year.
- Students must be enrolled in a teacher education program and demonstrate a commitment to teach and coach in the public schools in rural or other counties in need of coaches.
- Recipients classified as juniors may renew their award for their senior year of study.
- Recipients may not receive other scholarship/loan funds designed for teachers such as Teaching Fellows, Prospective Teachers Scholarship Loan, the Future Teachers of North Carolina Scholarship Loan Fund, or the Millennium Teacher Scholarship Loan in the same year that they receive PEC funds.
- Students must maintain academic progress in the teacher education program.
- Recipients must sign promissory notes requiring one year of service in exchange for one year of funding received. Those who fail to repay in service will be required to repay the loan in cash with an interest rate of 10%.

## **Application Procedure**

In January 2006, applications for the PEC program for the 2005-06 academic year were distributed to the 47 four-year institutions with teacher education programs. Each education school or department was asked to nominate six students to be considered for the scholarship/loan by February 20. Final selections will be made by mid-March by the State Education Assistance Authority with consideration given to each student's grade point average.

Information was posted on the CFNC.org website to educate the public and direct interested applicants to the teacher education departments on their respective campuses to obtain applications.

Funds will be available within approximately two weeks of receiving the completed promissory note; disbursement is expected to occur in late-March or early April.

## **Outcomes**

There are no figures available at this time with regard to expenditures, the number of recipients or demographics of the applicants and awardees. However, every effort will be made to identify and fund 25 qualified students from a variety of North Carolina institutions for the 2005-06 academic year.