



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

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RESEARCH DIVISION

H. MARTIN LANCASTER
PRESIDENT

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2007
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Basnight:

The purpose of my letter to you is to respond to Session Law 2007-154, Section 2. Chapter 115-D of the General Statutes which was amended by adding a new subsection to read: "The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop curriculum and continuing education standards for courses of instruction in American Sign Language and shall encourage colleges to offer courses in American Sign Language (ASL) as a modern foreign language."

I am happy to report to you that the State Board of Community Colleges has approved American Sign Language courses for both Continuing Education and Curriculum programs. Currently, 16 of the 58 community colleges are offering ASL courses. The courses are at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. During the 2007 spring and summer terms, 293 adult learners enrolled in these courses.

In the curriculum area, many of our community colleges incorporate ASL courses into a variety of approved programs. The following statement is placed on all curriculum standards to remind colleges that foreign language is approved as part of any curriculum program in the community college system: "Foreign language courses (including ASL) that are not designated as approved other major hours may be included in all programs up to a maximum of 3 semester hours of credit." These 3 hours of credit are in addition to ASL courses that may already be incorporated into the general education area of a program.

During the 2006-2007 year, approximately 234 students were enrolled in the Interpreter Education (A55300) program across the state. This program has increased in enrollment each year.

ALAMANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BEAUFORT COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CALDWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CARTERET COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE
CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DAVIDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDGEcombe COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FAYETTEVILLE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FORSYTH TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GASTON COLLEGE
GUILFORD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JAMES SPRUNT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JOHNSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LENOIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MCDOWELL TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MITCHELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NASH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PAMLICO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROANOKE-CHOWAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROBESON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SAMPSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SURRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WAYNE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WILSON TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Senator Basnight
Page 2
December 4, 2007

As you can see, our colleges have been proactive in ensuring that the ASL is an important component of our comprehensive mission in providing educational access to all of our citizens.

If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Delores A. Parker, Vice President for Academic and Student Services.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Martin Lancaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "L".

H. Martin Lancaster

HML/ cb

c: The Honorable Michael F. Easley, Governor of North Carolina
The Honorable Joe Hackney, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Ms. Jennifer Haygood, Fiscal Analyst
✓ Ms. Shirley Iorio, Legislative Analyst