

**EARN Scholarship
Annual Report
November 30, 2009**

The Early Access Rewards North Carolina (EARN) Scholarship program was established in 2007 by the NC General Assembly and the first funds were paid to eligible students for the 2008-09 academic year. EARN was proposed by Governor Easley to provide a grant of \$4,000 to replace loans for dependent students (and foster youth considered to be independent of their families) whose family incomes were 200% of the federal poverty guidelines or less. EARN Scholarships are limited to funding the first two years of college for each eligible student. The program was repealed during the 2009 session of the General Assembly effective July 1, 2010 with awards limited to \$2,000 for the 2009 fall semester only.

For the 2008-09 academic year, 13,798 students received a total of \$48,029,533.

Eligible institutions include the University of North Carolina, North Carolina Community Colleges, and independent non-profit institutions as defined in 116-22(1). Below is a breakdown of the funds that were allocated to student by type of institution. Campus-specific information is included in Appendix B.

	Students	Awards	% Of Total
UNC Institutions	5,400	\$20,259,193	42.18%
NC Community Colleges	6,489	\$20,359,797	42.39%
NC Independent Colleges	<u>2,045</u>	<u>\$7,410,543</u>	<u>15.42%</u>
	13,934	\$48,029,533	100 %

Note: the total number of students reported by type of institution does not equal the total number of students overall because mid-year transfers are counted in each sector in which the student enrolled.

Appendix A Awards by County of Residence

	Number	Amount		Number	Amount
Alamance	261	895,221	Guilford	881	3,118,851
Alexander	42	138,133	Halifax	183	620,833
Alleghany	18	61,667	Harnett	141	463,392
Anson	53	178,000	Haywood	83	291,183
Ashe	43	151,711	Henderson	84	292,978
Avery	33	104,000	Hertford	73	250,841
Beaufort	115	398,598	Hoke	63	222,545
Bertie	62	213,526	Hyde	10	35,987
Bladen	108	372,889	Iredell	177	628,334
Brunswick	160	539,461	Jackson	34	112,228
Buncombe	194	651,434	Johnston	188	651,747
Burke	223	788,711	Jones	21	75,476
Cabarrus	178	618,543	Lee	93	324,476
Caldwell	174	612,447	Lenoir	162	549,472
Camden	13	41,249	Lincoln	80	286,000
Carteret	87	302,052	McDowell	64	220,845
Caswell	44	146,950	Macon	45	151,872
Catawba	267	943,024	Madison	18	50,000
Chatham	58	204,656	Martin	78	273,357
Cherokee	32	101,928	Mecklenburg	1,024	3,653,669
Chowan	24	90,213	Mitchell	35	108,000
Clay	12	41,754	Montgomery	52	176,985
Cleveland	202	695,302	Moore	132	438,463
Columbus	153	530,000	Nash	181	656,652
Craven	140	484,983	Hew Hanover	241	831,769
Cumberland	524	1,935,751	Northampton	80	266,184
Currituck	26	89,784	Onslow	180	630,687
Dare	37	124,666	Orange	112	402,740
Davidson	199	667,586	Pamlico	24	86,960
Davie	40	138,000	Pasquotank	90	300,519
Duplin	116	397,927	Pender	77	278,334
Durham	402	1,382,877	Perquimans	30	102,741
Edgecombe	164	578,921	Person	68	236,000
Forsyth	471	1,668,578	Pitt	275	946,647
Franklin	99	351,969	Polk	20	62,460
Gaston	268	950,951	Randolph	161	574,212
Gates	19	67,058	Richmond	115	365,287
Graham	13	42,000	Robeson	373	1,247,590
Granville	78	278,000	Rockingham	139	475,458
Greene	32	121,832	Rowan	214	758,919

	Number	Amount
Rutherford	140	447,103
Sampson	117	424,405
Scotland	89	302,227
Stanly	97	309,158
Stokes	55	178,992
Surry	121	417,018
Swain	28	89,654
Transylvania	27	88,176
Tyrrell	5	13,984
Union	200	708,172
Vance	134	470,503
Wake	758	2,694,035
Warren	51	178,113
Washington	45	156,708
Watauga	46	157,922
Wayne	241	823,449
Wilkes	97	347,783
Wilson	150	533,641
Yadkin	46	157,873
Yancey	23	64,522
Unknown	<u>44</u>	<u>143,049</u>
 Total	 13,799	 \$48,029,533

Note: the total number of students reported by county does not equal the total number of students overall because mid-year transfers may have changed residences and thus are counted once in each county for each semester.

Appendix B: Awards by Institution

	Number of Students	Amount	Pct
UNC Institutions			
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY	220	808,343	1.68
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY	569	2,162,095	4.5
ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY	270	958,938	1.99
FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY	300	1,111,854	2.31
NC A&T STATE UNIVERSITY	521	1,966,409	4.09
NC CENTRAL UNIVERSITY	463	1,740,299	3.62
NC STATE UNIVERSITY	447	1,736,257	3.61
UNIVERSITY OF NC-ASHEVILLE	65	230,095	0.47
UNIVERSITY OF NC CHAPEL HILL	231	907,650	1.88
UNIVERSITY OF NC CHARLOTTE	531	1,930,887	4.02
UNIVERSITY OF NC GREENSBORO	518	1,913,380	3.98
UNIVERSITY OF NC PEMBROKE	366	1,370,608	2.85
UNIVERSITY OF NC SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	9	35,353	0.07
UNIVERSITY OF NC-WILMINGTON	161	606,712	1.26
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY	208	772,313	1.6
WINSTON SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY	521	2,008,000	4.18
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UNC SUB-TOTAL	5,400	\$20,259,193	42.18%
NC Community Colleges			
ALAMANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	150	476,000	0.99
ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL CC	93	258,000	0.53
BEAUFORT COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	66	215,588	0.44
BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	77	238,000	0.49
BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	52	167,090	0.34
BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE	91	292,000	0.6
CALDWELL CC AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	227	750,000	1.56
CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	276	886,000	1.84
CARTERET COMMUNITY COLLEGE	50	144,000	0.29
CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	146	476,000	0.99
CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	98	289,886	0.6
CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	375	1,174,000	2.44
CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	107	346,000	0.72
COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	97	305,472	0.63
COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE	63	183,858	0.38
CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	76	250,538	0.52
DAVIDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	105	314,000	0.65
DURHAM TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	167	466,000	0.97
EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	105	316,000	0.65

FAYETTEVILLE TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	148	526,000	1.09
FORSYTH TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	191	566,747	1.17
GASTON COLLEGE	158	509,785	1.06
GUILFORD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	419	1,331,352	2.77
HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE	87	252,000	0.52
HAYWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	79	269,183	0.56
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	108	304,332	0.63
JAMES SPRUNT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	33	87,228	0.18
JOHNSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	85	275,692	0.57
LENOIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	124	414,031	0.86
MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	21	70,000	0.14
MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	62	166,000	0.34
MCDOWELL TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	42	134,000	0.27
MITCHELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	78	250,000	0.52
MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	25	73,917	0.15
NASH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	71	259,100	0.53
PAMLICO COMMUNITY COLLEGE	10	31,917	0.06
PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	77	244,000	0.5
PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	247	787,314	1.63
RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	72	240,000	0.49
RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	62	154,955	0.32
ROANOKE-CHOWAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	40	106,520	0.22
ROBESONCOMMUNITY COLLEGE	146	416,000	0.86
ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE	78	242,583	0.5
ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	179	588,000	1.22
SAMPSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	58	198,000	0.41
SANDHILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	149	454,196	0.94
SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	43	122,000	0.25
SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	110	368,000	0.76
SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	75	229,408	0.47
STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	56	136,000	0.28
SURRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	106	350,481	0.72
TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	30	80,000	0.16
VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	148	464,000	0.96
WAKE TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	203	628,000	1.3
WAYNE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	140	437,766	0.91
WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	140	482,000	1
WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE	107	354,857	0.73
WILSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	61	206,000	0.42
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NC COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUB-TOTAL	6,489	\$20,359,797	42.39%

NC Independent Colleges

BARTON COLLEGE	49	178,000	0.37
BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE	26	88,900	0.18
BENNETT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN	21	74,000	0.15
BREVARD COLLEGE	16	54,000	0.11
CABARRUS COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES	2	6,000	0.01
CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY	206	762,510	1.58
CATAWBA COLLEGE	18	70,000	0.14
CHOWAN UNIVERSITY	49	160,810	0.33
DAVIDSON COLLEGE	5	20,000	0.04
DUKE UNIVERSITY	16	50,000	0.1
ELON UNIVERSITY	15	58,000	0.12
GARDNER WEBB UNIVERSITY	60	225,160	0.46
GREENSBORO COLLEGE	37	134,000	0.27
GUILFORD COLLEGE	27	104,000	0.21
HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY	28	104,000	0.21
JOHNSON & WALES UNIV-CHARLOTTE	72	250,178	0.52
JOHNSON C SMITH UNIVERSITY	78	281,255	0.58
LEES MCRAE COLLEGE	36	134,000	0.27
LENOIR RHYNE UNIVERSITY	77	292,000	0.6
LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE	171	620,000	1.29
LOUISBURG COLLEGE	184	620,538	1.29
MARS HILL COLLEGE	63	227,642	0.47
MEREDITH COLLEGE	52	191,000	0.39
METHODIST UNIVERSITY	74	264,000	0.54
MONTREAT COLLEGE	20	74,000	0.15
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE	47	178,000	0.37
NC WESLEYAN COLLEGE	86	318,111	0.66
PEACE COLLEGE	38	142,596	0.29
PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY	50	190,000	0.39
QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE	21	82,000	0.17
SALEM COLLEGE	16	60,000	0.12
SHAW UNIVERSITY	142	492,000	1.02
ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE	6	22,000	0.04
SAINT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE	139	508,000	1.05
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY	25	98,000	0.2
WARREN WILSON COLLEGE	7	26,000	0.05
WINGATE UNIVERSITY	66	250,022	0.52
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NC INDEPENDENT COLLEGE SUB-TOTAL	2,045	\$7,410,543	14.13%
GRAND TOTAL	13,934	\$48,029,533	100 %

§ 116-209.26. Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund.

(a) The following definitions apply to this section:

- (1) Academic year. – A period of time in which a student in matriculated status is expected to complete the equivalent of at least two semesters' or three quarters' academic work.
- (2) Eligible postsecondary institution. – A school that is any of the following:
 - a. A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as defined in G.S. 116-2(4);
 - b. A community college as defined in G.S. 115D-2(2); or
 - c. An institution as defined in G.S. 116-22(1).
- (3) Matriculated status. – Being recognized as a first-time candidate for a degree or certificate, exclusive of any course credits earned while in high school, in a defined program of study at an eligible postsecondary institution.
- (4) Title IV. – Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

(b) There is established the Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to certain eligible students to enable them to obtain an education beyond the high school level at certain postsecondary institutions in North Carolina without incurring student loans to meet their financial need during the first two years of their postsecondary education. The State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) shall administer the Fund.

(c) Criteria for awarding the grants shall be developed by the SEAA and include all of the following:

- (1) The student must qualify as a legal resident of North Carolina, a legal resident of the United States, and as a resident for tuition purposes in accordance with G.S. 116-143.1.
- (2) Within seven months of the fiscal year in which the grant is to be disbursed, the student must have:
 - a. Graduated from a North Carolina high school;
 - b. Received a General Education Development (GED) certificate from a North Carolina institution; or
 - c. Completed a high school education in a home school setting meeting the qualifications and requirements under G.S. 115C-564.
- (3) The student must meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an undergraduate student in a matriculated status on a full-time basis at an eligible postsecondary institution in North Carolina.
- (4) The student must be an eligible dependent student. For purposes of this subdivision, an "eligible dependent student" is a student who:
 - a. Either is classified as dependent for the Title IV programs or is a ward or dependent of the court; and

b. Demonstrates total family income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of the applicable federal poverty guideline, according to standards set by the SEAA and measured using data elements available to the SEAA from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or such other source as the SEAA may deem appropriate.

- (5) The student must meet all other eligibility requirements for the federal Pell Grant.
- (6) In order to retain eligibility for a grant for the student's second academic year, the student must meet achievement standards by maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with the standards and practices used for Title IV programs by the eligible postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled.
- (7) The student may not receive a grant in an amount that, when combined with the federal Pell Grant, exceeds the student's cost of attendance as defined under Title IV.
- (8) The student may not receive a grant under this section for more than the equivalent of two academic years.

(d) The maximum grant for which a student is eligible under this section shall be four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per academic year. In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible student with the maximum grant, it is the intent of the General Assembly that eligible students who have matriculated into an eligible postsecondary institution in North Carolina with at least one academic year of college credit receive the maximum grant amount and all other eligible students shall receive a reduced grant amount.

(e) The grants provided for in this section shall be administered by the State Education Assistance Authority pursuant to rules adopted by the SEAA not inconsistent with this section.

(f) The State Education Assistance Authority shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 1, 2009, and by each December 1 thereafter, regarding the Fund and grants awarded from the Fund.

(g) Grant funds unexpended shall remain available to the SEAA for future grants to be awarded under this section.

(h) No funds appropriated from the Escheat Fund to the Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund shall be used for a grant awarded under this section to a student who is an undergraduate student at an institution as defined in G.S. 116-22(1); however, funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Education Access Rewards North Carolina Scholars Fund may be used for a grant awarded under this section to a student who is an undergraduate student at an institution as defined in G.S. 116-22(1). (2007-323, s. 9.7(a); 2008-107, s. 9.2(a), (b).)