



## NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

April 1, 2010

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R. SCOTT RALLS, Ph.D.  
PRESIDENT

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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  
HALLIFAX 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 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Honorable Douglas Yates Yongue  
NC House of Representatives  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1303  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Honorable Anthony E. Foriest  
NC Senate  
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 411  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Representative Yongue and Senator Foriest:

This letter serves as the 2009-2010 Report for the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding the Lateral Entry Certificate program available through the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS).

The Lateral Entry certificate program was initially approved on April 22, 2006, and since that time, twenty-nine community colleges have received approval to offer the program. As of the end of the 2008-2009 academic year (summer semester of 2009), eighteen of those colleges have enrolled students in the lateral entry coursework.

Community Colleges have offered the courses from the lateral entry certificate in a variety of ways in order to best meet the needs of the students. Courses have been offered as face-to-face (traditional) classes, on-line classes and hybrid classes. In addition, the courses have been scheduled in a variety of ways including utilizing the entire 16 week semester or in intensive 8 week blocks, as well as utilizing other scheduling options.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, fifteen community colleges enrolled a total of 235 students into lateral entry certificate coursework. The attached chart provides detailed enrollment information for 2006-2009.

Unfortunately, the community college's lateral entry program is not a seamless one. There are currently nine competencies required to become a lateral entry teacher. Four of the six competencies that community colleges are allowed to offer can also be offered through inservice training by the Local Education Agency (LEA). In addition, although students can meet six of the required competencies at the local community college, they have to complete additional coursework at a senior institution in order to meet all of the required competencies. As a result, the process of obtaining the required lateral entry competencies is fragmented and can be confusing for students.

The adoption of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards by the NC State Board of Education has prompted a review of the lateral entry competencies for the state. In addition, Section 7.21(a) of the Budget Bill has prompted the State Board of Education to remove barriers to lateral entry. Currently, the State Board of Education has heard recommendations that would potentially reduce competencies from nine to five.

Representative Douglas Y. Yongue  
Senator Anthony E. Foriest  
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Section 7.21(a) of the Budget Bill also specifies that additional opportunities will be provided for individuals to complete coursework at community colleges as well as online. NCCCS staff has contacted the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) regarding the provisions of the Budget Bill and its impacts on the Community College System. We have been informed by DPI staff that a formal invitation will be issued to involve the NCCCS in the process of revising the guidelines for lateral entry.

In preparation of our involvement, the NCCCS office will survey community colleges currently offering the Lateral Entry program to gather input on program successes and challenges. Based upon the outcomes of our review and DPI's revision process, the NCCCS will modify our Lateral Entry program standard and coursework.

The NCCCS looks forward to working with DPI and the senior institutions in the upcoming year to continue to improve teacher education efforts within our own system and state to assist in improving pathways to teacher licensure.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Scott Ralls', written in a cursive style.

R. Scott Ralls

RSR/ES/gr  
Attachment

c: Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

Mr. Kennon Briggs  
Dr. Sharon Morrissey  
Dr. Judith C. Mann  
Ms. Jennifer Frazelle  
Ms. Erin S. Smith  
Ms. Jennifer Willis

**Lateral Entry Student Enrollment Data by College and Semester**

Community College	06-07 Annual Totals	07-08 Annual Totals	08-09 Annual Totals
Beaufort		1	
Brunswick			2
Carteret			1
Central Piedmont	15	41	73
Cleveland			4
Edgecombe		1	
Gaston		6	12
Gulford	24	39	54
Halifax	1	1	4
Mitchell	1	9	5
Richmond		1	14
Roanoke Chowan			4
Robeson	6	19	11
Sandhills		7	
Southwestern	1	2	1
Stanly			4
Vance- Granville		22	45
Wake Tech			1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>235</b>