

## North Carolina Community College System Conference N3CSDPA Pre-Conference Meeting

System Office Update  
Presented by Wanda White

October 12, 2008

### Best Practices

- **Child Care Program Best Practices** - A memo will be sent out within the next week, soliciting policies, procedures and best practices for a manual on child care practices as it relates to the NC Child Care Grant. Please contact KarenYerby if you have questions.

### 2008 College Application Week

- **2008 College Application Week –November 10 -14, 2008** - The purpose of this effort is to increase awareness of the need for postsecondary education and to develop a support system that encourages first generation college students to plan and apply to a postsecondary institution in North Carolina. During the College Application Week, representatives from across the state will assist high school students in completing online college applications to various North Carolina colleges. The planning committee for this event consists of representatives from (CACRAO), (CFNC), North Carolina Community College System, State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) and other educators.
- We encourage you to join us as a volunteer during the 2008 event. Volunteers can greet and sign-in students, assist with the completion of online applications, or distribute information about financial aid opportunities. To volunteer, go to the CFNC.org website, click on “Register for CFNC Events,” and then click on “Volunteer Registration - 2008 College App Week.”

### College Access Challenge Grant

- The **North Carolina College Access Challenge Grant Program (NC CACGP)** will expand the scope of existing services and enhance college access efforts currently in existence. The grant program consists of a strong collaborative effort of the **University of North Carolina General Administration**, the lead organization, and the **NC Community College System**, the **NC Independent Colleges and Universities**, the **NC Department of Public Instruction**, the **NC State Education Assistance Authority**, and the **pre-college programs** housed on the NC college and university campuses.
- The purpose of the NC project is two-pronged: **(1) Encourage and increase postsecondary enrollment** by expanding access to information about course transferability between NC community colleges and senior institutions, both public and private, through the CFNC Online Transfer Articulation and Transcript System; and **(2) Enhance current pre-college outreach initiatives** through **strengthened collaboration, strategic planning, evaluation, and leadership**

**oversight.** NCCCS will receive an estimated total of \$85,000 over a two year period to assist with Financial Aid Professional Development and Minority Male Mentoring.

- Specific goals include improving the ease of transferring credit from community colleges to senior institutions, increasing the college application and FAFSA completion rate of students, and strengthening the effectiveness of existing college access initiatives to address the needs of low income students and their families.

### **Conferences & Workshops**

- **Fall N4CSGA Conference** – The Fall N4CSGA Conference will be held from October 31 – November 2, 2008, in Greenville, NC at the Hilton Hotel. To register for the conference, please log in to the association website at <http://n4csga.org>.
- **The North Carolina Career Development Association Conference** will be held November 7, 2008, at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, NC. The conference registration deadline is October 17, 2008. For more information visit the website at <http://www.nccounseling.org/NCCDA>.
- **Default Management Workshop** – The Community College System in partnership with College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) will host a Default Management workshop on October 23, 2008 at CFNC, 3917 Highwoods Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27606. The purpose of the workshop is to assist colleges in developing default management initiatives to manage and maintain lower loan default rates.
- **Chief Academic and Student Services Officers** - An orientation for new Academic and Student Services Administrators will be held on November 13 and Seminars for Chief Academic and Student Services Officers will be held on November 14 at the System Office. Registration information will be sent out soon.

### **Financial Aid Programs**

- **Expansion of the Community College Grant** – The State Board of Community Colleges approved on August 15, 2008, an expansion of the Community College Grant program beginning with the 08/09 academic year. The expansion increases eligibility for certain independent students, without dependents other than a spouse, whose expected income ranges from \$5,001 to \$10,000. Award amounts range from \$225 to \$900.
- **Financial Aid Professionals Course** – The State Board has approved a Continuing Education Financial Aid Professionals course. Currently, 17 colleges have confirmed that they will offer the course some time during the 2008/09 year. As soon as a schedule has been developing by the colleges, the System Office will send out an announcement. The course is a 40 hour one week course and will provide class participants with (4) continuing education credits and a

certificate of completion. The course will be taught utilizing National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) training materials.

### **Minority Male Mentoring**

- The 2008 session of the General Assembly, House Bill 2436 appropriated \$960,000 to expand continued funding to 15 Minority Male Mentoring Programs and 17 additional community colleges. Each of college selected received \$30,000 to assist in the operation of their Minority Male Mentoring Programs.
- The NC Community College System will sponsor its **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Minority Male Mentoring Conference** on April 8 – 10, 2009. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Research Triangle Park, NC. The conference will highlight Minority Male Mentoring Best Practices and will share strategies to improve college attendance and graduation rates of minority males.

### **Placement Testing Validation Study**

- The Placement Testing Committee, chaired by Brad Bostian of Central Piedmont Community College is in the process of planning the next Placement Testing Validation Study. College Board and ACT will conduct the study. The study will cover the enrollment period of 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. Colleges are reminded to key placement testing scores in the required Datatel modules. Placement Testing data will be sent to College Board and Act by the System Office.

### **Student Leadership Institute**

- The Student Leadership Institute Fall Mini-Session will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott-Crabtree, Raleigh. Applications for the SLI class of 2009-2010 will be sent to the colleges in January. Please contact Karen Yerby for more information.