

On The Cutting Edge

Showcasing **Distance Learning** in the **NC Community College System**

Six Colleges Join The Breaking Through Initiative

Through the generosity of the N.C. GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, the North Carolina Community College System has added six colleges to the national Breaking Through initiative. The goal of **Breaking Through** is to strengthen postsecondary outcomes for adults currently enrolled in basic skill programs by focusing on strategies that create more effective pathways through pre-college and degree-level programs. The Breaking Through program runs through the end of calendar year 2008.



Colleges Participating:

Davidson County Community College
 Durham Technical Community College
 Forsyth Technical Community College
 Pamlico Community College
 Pitt Community College
 South Piedmont Community College

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NCCCS Receives \$12.5 Million From Perkins Act

On July 26, the Senate approved final reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006.

North Carolina received approximately \$37.5 million through this Act. The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) received one third of this amount or about \$12.5 million. Approximately \$10 million will be distributed to colleges based on a formula, while \$1 million supports State Leadership Activities including NC-NET and \$1 million supports Tech Prep.

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New Vision – New Name

On The Cutting Edge represents the variety of Distance Learning (DL) programs and initiatives in the NC Community College System (NCCCS) under the expanded vision of the Virtual Learning Community (VLC).

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VLC Centers Selected for Course Development and Editing for 2006-2007

At the August 18, 2006 State Board meeting, **Fayetteville Technical Community College** and **Surry Community College** were awarded grants for Virtual Learning Community (VLC) distance learning course development and course conversion/editing.

Bob Ervin will serve as Coordinator of Center 1, located at Fayetteville Technical Community College; and Candace Ring will serve as Coordinator for Center 2, located at Surry Community College.

Goals for the Centers include the development and editing of online courses, identification of software for use in physics and biology lab courses, and conversion of courses to a new version of Blackboard.

Center 1 will develop two biology courses, three chemistry courses, six math courses, and one physics course. This Center will also research, evaluate, and recommend software to be used in the future development of physics and biology lab courses.

Center 2 will edit approximately 48 courses and convert approximately 140 existing VLC courses to a new version of Blackboard.

Each center will receive \$250,000 for the 2006-2007 academic year. The \$250,000 represents \$150,000 in recurring and \$100,000 in nonrecurring appropriations.

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New Online Learning Resource for On-Campus and Distance Learning Classes

Through the 2 + 2 E-Learning Initiative, the North Carolina Community College System is providing **SAS inSchool[®] Curriculum Pathways[®] 2007** to the entire North Carolina Community College System, beginning September 2006.

The NCCCS will be the first state-wide System to use the new SAS higher education learning objects. Curriculum Pathways[®] provides much needed Web-based educational content that can be accessed by adult learners from school, work, or home - practically any place with Internet access. Grounded in the principles of cognitive science, Curriculum Pathways[®] covers several core disciplines: English, mathematics, social studies, science, and Spanish.

Built in accordance with the way students learn, this online product provides a wealth of resources in all the core disciplines. Key features include:

- Innovative integration of technology and curriculum
- Research validated instructional techniques
- Learner centered activities with measurable outcomes
- Interactive materials that target higher-order thinking skills

Because of Curriculum Pathways[®] unique design, community colleges can use these online resources with a variety of student populations, including those in developmental classes, traditional and online classes in the core subject areas, and lateral entry students working on teacher certification for middle and high school.

Six half-day (3.5 hr) **Regional Train-the-Trainer Workshops** (two sessions per region) for distance-learning coordinators, developmental instructors, basic skills instructors, lead instructors, and/or staff-development personnel have been scheduled.

Training Workshops are scheduled for:

- September 18 at McDowell Technical Community College, Marion
- September 20 at Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh
- September 22 at Craven Community College, New Bern

There will be separate morning and afternoon sessions at each site, with seating limited to 20 per session. Only two trainees per community college, please.

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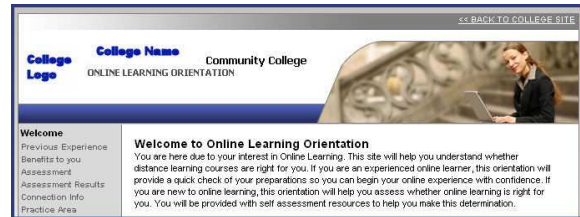
NC-NET Funds Development of Online Orientation For Distance Learning Students

To assist students in understanding the skills needed to enroll in online courses **NC-NET** provided funds from the Carol D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to fund the development of an Online Orientation designed to assess student readiness for online learning environments.

The purpose of this initiative was to develop a state-wide website to which colleges could refer their distance learning students to assess their readiness to take online courses.

This orientation was developed by a team of veteran online faculty and administrators. It provides a pre-test to assess the learning

behavior of online students. Upon completion of the orientation, an email is automatically sent to the student outlining their assessment results. In addition, the orientation provides information to assist students in becoming successful online learners.



Each college has a unique URL that brands the site to that college. The general URL is <http://198.86.245.101/its/ncnet/index>

To find out more about NC-NET and explore other resources available visit the NC-NET website at <http://www.nc-net.info/aboutncnet.htm>

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Two Additional VLC Centers Funded for 2006-2007

Requests for proposals for two additional VLC development centers will be forwarded to colleges in early September 2006. The first grant represents much needed first-time funding to support the development of distance learning courses for continuing education. The second grant will expand on previous funding for the editing of courses for technical/vocational education programs.

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NC Legislature Appropriates New Funds for Distance Learning Technology

New funds were appropriated by the NC Legislature for distance learning technology in the 2006 budget. The majority of these funds are recurring. More information regarding these projects will be available in the near future.

The funds were appropriated as follows:

- **Enterprise-Course Management System (e-CMS)**, \$1,370,850 recurring. Provides funds for an enterprise online teaching and learning platform for eventual compatibility with CIS and the proposed Learning Object Repository.
- **Online Help Desk**, \$605,000 recurring and \$20,000 non-recurring. Provides funds to establish an online help desk for students enrolled in online courses.
- **NC Information Highway Expansion**, \$120,000 non-recurring. Provides \$15,000 each to eight colleges for the purchase of mobile (roll about) video-conferencing equipment.
- **Virtual Learning Community Development Centers**, \$300,000 recurring and \$200,000 non-recurring. Provides funding for two Centers for the development of distance education courses.

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NCWE Fall 2006 Conference

The National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE) Board of Directors issued a call for presentations for the Annual conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from October 21 through October 24, 2006.

NCWE sought cutting-edge, forward-thinking, engaging presentations keyed to the theme of "The Changing Role of the Community College: New Models in a Flat World."

For a copy of the conference agenda visit <http://www.ncwe.org/documents/ConfSchedulePrelim.pdf>

To learn more about the National Council for Workforce Education visit <http://www.ncwe.org/>

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Virtual Counseling Resource Guide Provides Enhanced Resources

The *Virtual Counseling Resource Guide*, published by NCCCS Student Development Services, has been updated to provide enhanced counseling Information for professional counselors. This resource guide provides tips for improving effective online counseling services to students, descriptions and examples of effective online counseling services, useful questions to ask in designing online counseling and advising services, and resources that link to professional agencies.

You can access this guide through the NCCCS numbered memo CC06-147 at: http://www.ncccs.edu/Numbered_Memos/docs/MemosFor2006/cc06-147.pdf

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Results of 2005-2006 VLC Centers: New Courses Developed and Edited

As a result of the work in three VLC Development and Editing Centers during 2005-2006, the following courses were developed and edited for use in distance education.

Courses Edited:

ACC 129	Individual Income Taxes
ACC 220	Intermediate Accounting I
ANT 210	General Anthropology
BIO 166	Anatomy and Physiology II
BUS 121	Business Math
BUS 135	Principles of Supervision
CIS 286	Systems Analysis and Design
COE 111	Co-Op Experience I
CSC 239	Advanced Visual Basic
EDU 151	Creative Activities
ELC 128	Introduction to PLC
ENG 262	World Literature II
HIS 223	African American History II
HUM 122	Southern Culture
LEX 120	Legal Research/Writing I
LEX 130	Civil Injuries
LEX 150	Commercial Law I
MAT 070	Introductory Algebra
MED 118	Medical Law and Ethics
MNT 111	Maintenance Practices
REL 110	World Religions
SOC 220	Social Problems

Courses Developed:

COM 130	Nonverbal Communication
ECO 151	Survey of Economics
EDU 271	Educational Technology
ENG 233	Major American Writers
ENG 251	Western World Literature I

FIP 220	Fire Fighting Strategies
HIS 112	World Civilizations II
MKT 221	Consumer Behavior
MKT 230	Public Relations
OST 148	Medical Coding, Billing & Insur
OST 149	Med. Legal Issues
PHI 210	History of Philosophy
SOC 225	Social Diversity

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On The Cutting Edge will be published three times a year (Fall, Spring, and Summer). Faculty and staff at NCCCS colleges are encouraged to submit story ideas to any of the staff listed above.