

Fall 2021 Newsletter

State Increases NC Need Based Scholarship



The 2020-21 NC Legislative session is coming to an end and we are delighted that the General Assembly has allotted significant funds to our students, and our colleges and universities in the State Budget. The budget includes **\$2.2 million in additional recurring funding for the NC Need Based Scholarship (NCNBS)** for North Carolina students, which increases overall funding to \$91.1 million annually. The funding will allow the scholarships to be increased for the current academic year.

In addition, the budget includes **\$51 million in one-time American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding** for NCICU campuses. The funds are to be used to mitigate losses in revenue and to respond to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are deeply appreciative to the Governor and General Assembly for this support.

North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Grant for STEM Mentoring

NCICU has received a three-year grant totaling \$240,000 from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to establish a Faculty-Student STEM Mentoring Program. The program will seek to improve student retention and graduation rates among first generation, women, and students of color majoring in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM).

"Employer demand for STEM graduates has experienced a steady increase in the past 20 years," said NCICU president, Hope Williams. "While North Carolina has a strong STEM workforce, it has been a challenge nationally to attract a diverse population in this field. NCICU wants to help increase racial and gender diversity and believes this faculty-student mentor program can produce positive results."

Twelve of North Carolina's private, nonprofit colleges and universities will be invited to participate in the program, including the five historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), with at least 20 participants per campus. Components of the program will include mentor support, student scholarships, career workshops, guest speakers, and faculty and peer connections. Students will work in small groups with a peer mentor who is a junior or a senior, as well as a faculty member. Professionals in STEM fields will be invited to share their experiences

Goodnight Foundation Grant to Support Science of Reading Curriculum Development

The Goodnight Educational Foundation has awarded North Carolina Independent College and Universities (NCICU) \$1 million over two years to support the implementation of the Science of Reading initiative into the curriculum for teacher education students.

Last April, the General Assembly enacted legislation requiring Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) to begin providing coursework in the Science of Reading which focuses on multiple aspects of phonics, spelling, and oral language/comprehension. With this grant, NCICU will establish a task force to assist the 31 private colleges and universities which have EPPs with implementation strategies.

"We recognize that reading and comprehension are keys to student achievement at all levels of education," said NCICU president, Hope Williams, "and we are deeply appreciative of this critical support from the Goodnight Educational Foundation to support development and implementation of the Science of Reading curriculum at the 31 NCICU Educator Prep Programs."

The NCICU task force will provide training in the "Science of Reading" for EPP faculty at each of the NCICU EPPs as well as for pre-service teacher candidates and recent graduates who are teaching in school districts served by our EPPs. The grant to

with participants and to become part of a network of mentors.

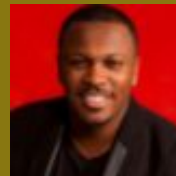
While this program is focused on North Carolina's independent colleges, it will have a statewide impact and will support *myFutureNC's* goal to ensure that by 2030, two million North Carolinians will have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree.

NCICU will also fund summer workshops which will include local superintendents and principals along with EPP faculty. Individual EPPs will develop self-studies in the Science of Reading assisted by sub-grants for curriculum re-design which will be available through the project.

CIC/UPS Scholarships Awarded

NCICU has awarded \$115,200 in CIC/UPS Scholarships to low-income, first-generation, minority and new American students. One \$3,200 scholarship went to a student at each of North Carolina's 36 private colleges and universities. The scholarships were made possible by a grant from the UPS Educational Endowment which UPS directed in 1953 to private college students attending colleges in North Carolina. The grants are distributed nationally through the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC).

"The Council of Independent Colleges has managed the UPS Endowment since 2010, continuing the role of providing a scholarship to each college in State Councils such as NCICU across the country," said NCICU president, Hope Williams. "The UPS scholarships provide crucial funds for students, assuring their access to a transformative college education." (More)

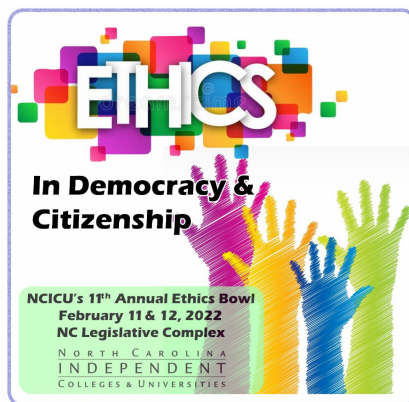


Mentoring Grant Program Underway

Marcel Anderson joined NCICU as project director for a mentoring program which has been established to implement a strategy to increase persistence, retention and graduation rates of minority male students on campus. The program is made possible by a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges and Universities which was matched, in large part, by the VF Foundation.

Marcel is a perfect fit to lead this program, having founded Accelerating Men Inc. in 2014, a nonprofit 501c3 organization created to help educate, train, and cultivate African American young men to accelerate in their identity, build their Self-Esteem, Character, and show them how to live a Healthy Lifestyle.

NCICU's program will be called *iBelong* and will provide mentoring, coaching, and forums for participants to explore various career opportunities.



NCICU's 2022 Ethics Bowl

NCICU's largest student event is our annual Ethics Bowl. This year we plan to hold the 2022 Ethics Bowl in person on **Friday and Saturday, February 11 & 12**, in the **NC Legislative Complex**. The theme will be *Ethics in Democracy and Citizenship*.

Seventeen colleges and universities plan to participate, and we are currently looking for sponsors, as well as volunteers to serve as judges and moderators. If you, your company, or organization would like to be a sponsor of the Ethics Bowl, please contact Colleen Kinser at Kinser@ncicu.org and she can provide sponsorship levels.

The two-day event features four rounds of competition followed by semi-final round and final rounds. NCICU provides overnight accommodations for the student participants and their campus coordinators, and hosts a banquet at the Museum of History.

For more information about the Ethics Bowl, contact Rebecca Leggett, leggett@ncicu.org.

If you would like to be a sponsor of the Ethics Bowl, contact Colleen Kinser, kinser@ncicu.org.

Welcome New Presidents! ----- Administrative Group Meetings

Summer Johnson McGee, Ph.D.,

NCICU has hosted a number of administrative group meetings this fall. All have been virtual due to the



CPH, became the 22nd president of Salem College on July 1

Susan R. Wente, Ph.D., joined Wake Forest University as its 14th president on July 1.



ongoing pandemic. Groups that have met are:

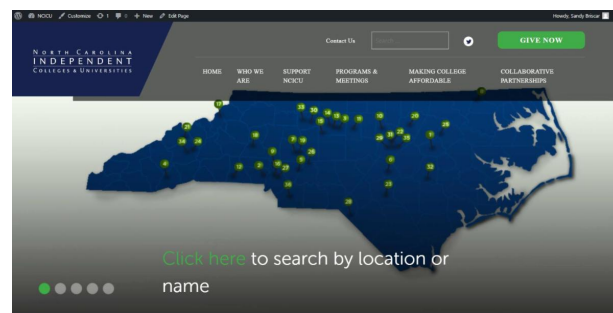
- Directors of Academic Advising
- Deans/VPs of Student Affairs
- HR Directors
- Chief Academic Officers
- Directors of Institutional Research
- Directors of Non-Traditional/Online Learning
- IT Directors
- Chief Financial Officers
- SGA Presidents

Groups meeting in December and January are: Registrars, Directors of Admissions, Library Directors, Financial Aid Directors, Advancement and Communication staffs.

Economic Development Council Meets

The second meeting of the NCICU Economic Development Council met virtually on November 3. After opening comments by President Williams, the representatives from NCICU colleges and universities heard from a variety of speakers. John Loyack and Gene McLaurin of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina spoke on the role of the Partnership in recruiting, marketing and promoting economic development, including tourism, in our state. Dr. Susan White reported on the three programs she heads----NC Sea Grant Program, Water Resources Research Institute of UNC, and NC Space Grant.

Other speakers included Leslie Boney, NCSU Emerging Issues Institute; Patrick Woodie, The Rural Center; and Scott Hamilton, Golden LEAF Foundation. **Phil Kirk**, community relations advisor for NCICU, discussed future agenda topics and meeting locations. The speakers all emphasized how NCICU campuses could become involved in economic development at the local, state, and regional levels and how to participate in various grant programs.



NCICU Launches New Website

NCICU has launched [a new website](#) that more fully reflects the extensive programming and services we offer. The site includes new content on programs and meetings that NCICU holds throughout the year, as well as the numerous grant-funded projects that are underway.

Features from our previous site which are still included are links to each of our 36 campuses, information on scholarships and funding for higher education, and a list of our collaborative partners who work with our campuses to control costs and improve the quality of services offered to students, faculty and staff.

NCICU Welcomes New Collaborative Partners



For more information about our Collaborative Partners and available discounts, [click here](#).

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