



Dr. R. Scott Ralls, President

PRESS RELEASE

200 West Jones Street ■ Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 ■ www.nccommunitycolleges.edu

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CONTACT: Megen Hoenk hoenkm@nccommunitycolleges.edu

PHONE: (919) 807-6962

State Board Reaffirms Admissions Policy for Undocumented Immigrants *New President Approved for College of The Albemarle*

RALEIGH – The State Board of Community Colleges today reaffirmed its approval of [23 N.C.A.C. 02C .0301 “Admission to Colleges,”](#) a policy that would allow undocumented immigrants to enter the system’s 58 community colleges if it successfully clears the Rules Review Commission process and if the student:

- Is a graduate of a United States high school
- Pays out-of-state tuition
- Does not displace a North Carolina or US citizen

“Today, our State Board of Community Colleges took another step forward in aligning North Carolina’s higher education admissions policy related to undocumented immigrants,” said State Board Chair, Hilda Pinnix-Ragland. “We confirmed our commitment to a policy that would, like our state’s university system, admit graduates of U.S. high schools at an out-of-state tuition rate. But we also recognized the needs of our state’s citizens to have every educational opportunity available by adding the caveat that a North Carolina or U.S citizen could not be displaced by an undocumented immigrant.”

With today’s vote, the policy now continues down the path to possible approval as laid out in the [administrative rules review process](#), overseen by the Rules Review Commission.

The State Board also approved Dr. Kandi W. Deitemeyer as [College of The Albemarle’s ninth president](#). Dr. Deitemeyer has extensive experience within the North Carolina Community College System and within community college administration across the United States, most recently serving as Vice President of Academic Programs and Services at Davidson County Community College in Lexington, N.C. She will begin her presidency at COA effective April 19.

In other business, the State Board approved the allocation of funds to Pamlico Community College to join its fellow colleges in offering the [Career Readiness Certification](#), an assessment-based credential that gives employers and career seekers a uniform measure of key workplace

skills that is gaining support among North Carolina employers. The Board also approved a new curriculum program, Aerostructure Manufacturing and Repair Technology, for Lenoir Community College in Kinston. Dr. Scott Ralls, North Carolina Community College System President, called the program's approval a milestone.

"It is a culmination of several years of work that has involved the input of multiple colleges, support from organizations such as the Golden LEAF Foundation and a true team approach," Ralls said in his [report to the State Board](#). "It is a new programmatic baseline for us as we attempt to complement and build our aerospace production capabilities for the purpose of enabling North Carolinians to prosper from jobs in an industry that is now an export leader for the United States."

The next meeting of the State Board of Community Colleges is scheduled for April 15 and 16 in Raleigh.

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