

August 13, 2008

The Honorable R. Scott Ralls, Ph. D.
North Carolina Community College System Office
The Caswell Building
200 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

RE: Admission of Illegal Immigrants to Community Colleges

Dear President Ralls,

I understand the State Board of Community Colleges is slated to meet Thursday and Friday of this week and will discuss whether to allow illegal immigrants to attend North Carolina's community colleges. Current policy is that illegal immigrants are not eligible for admission; the purpose of my letter is to recommend that there be no change in policy.

This issue has been extensively discussed throughout North Carolina, and all indications are that the vast majority of our citizens are opposed to admission of illegal immigrants to the state's community colleges. For most people this is not very complicated – the state should not reward illegal activity. People also have concerns about whether available space and classroom seats that go to illegal immigrants will take space and seats away from legal citizens. And there is the practical issue that illegal immigrants cannot legally be employed, so that training illegal immigrants for employment further encourages disrespect for our laws.

I encourage the board to support our legal citizens and not reward or encourage breaking our laws.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Berger

PEB/sc

Cc: Members of the State Board of Community Colleges