

The Public School Forum's Friday Report

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Community Colleges to Admit Illegal Immigrants

A committee of the State Board of Community Colleges recommended Thursday that undocumented students be admitted to degree programs, but they will have to pay out-of-state tuition, be denied financial aid, and be enrolled in classes only after legal students are given slots. The full board will vote on a final policy today, capping nearly two years of debate over whether to allow illegal immigrants at the state's 58 community college campuses.

A study conducted by the board earlier this year showed that out-of-state tuition covers more than the cost of instruction, and that most colleges profit from students who pay out-of-state rates. Admitting them would put the community colleges in line with the UNC system, which admits illegal immigrants who have graduated from high school in the United States.

The board also commissioned a \$75,000 study to outline the approaches taken by other states. The study showed that all but South Carolina allow undocumented students to enroll in community colleges. With fewer than 150 illegal immigrants enrolled in community colleges before the ban, a decision to raise the ban is not likely to cause an enrollment rush.

Education Cabinet Focuses on Unified Education System

This week's Education Cabinet meeting was called to order by Senator Howard Lee, Executive Director of the Cabinet. Governor Beverly Perdue and state education leaders: State Superintendent June Atkinson, State Board of Education Chairman Bill Harrison, UNC President Erskine Bowles, Community College President Scott Ralls, Independent Colleges and Universities President Hope Williams, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Larry Cansler and key staff members met to discuss their roles in better preparing the state's students for higher education and careers.

With the state's high school dropout rate hovering around 30 percent and about 60 percent of students entering community college needing remediation, Governor Perdue seeks to have the members of the Education Cabinet working together on remedies. Dr. Sam Houston, President of the NC Science, Math, Technology Education Center and Lt. Governor Walter Dalton addressed the Cabinet, as did Joe Freddoso, President/CEO of MCNC and Adam Levinson of NC DPI. "If you make headway on this, you will be a great governor," UNC system President Erskine Bowles told Perdue. Bowles suggested education leaders get a list of 4 or 5 things each had to do to realize the goal of creating a unified education system.

Education Cabinet (cont'd)

Cabinet members spent most of their time during the meeting discussing electronic connections between schools that would enable them to more easily communicate and transfer student data, but full execution of those plans would be contingent on winning federal grants. The Education Cabinet itself is using staff donated by the state Department of Public Instruction. Bowles said he could not promise a donation of staff because he was preparing to announce 900 position cuts this week.

State law requires that the three boards of education meet jointly once a year. Senator Lee suggested that hopefully the meeting could be held in early December. The meeting would have to be jointly funded by the education entities.

High school Innovation Continues Expansion in North Carolina

For the fifth year in a row, North Carolina has expanded the reach of high school innovation in the state, adding nine new schools that share in the same ambitious goal of graduating all students ready for college, careers and life.

After launching the first 24 of the pioneering schools in 2005, the number of innovative high schools this fall has grown to 105, with another slated to open mid-year. The addition of nine new early college high schools -- and a 10th in early 2010 -- means that students in 73 of North Carolina's 115 school districts now have the option of attending high school on the campus of a two- or four-year college and graduating not only with a high school diploma but also an associate's degree or two years of college credit.

In all, North Carolina now has 69 early college high schools, several of which serve students from multiple districts, 27 redesigned high schools oriented around a particular theme such as health science and nine other redesigned high schools with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math.

More than 21,000 students are estimated to be enrolled this year in the state's innovative high schools, a 13 percent increase from last year and a seven-fold increase from the 3,000 students who attended the first innovative high schools in 2005-06.

World View's 12th Annual Global Education Symposium

This annual symposium on October 14-15 will be at UNC's Friday Center. Today's employers need graduates equipped with the skills necessary to compete in an increasingly global, knowledge-based economy. In response to this need, this year's World View symposium offers educators from all disciplines techniques and resources for integrating 21st Century skills across the curriculum.

Keynote speakers include Yong Zhao, distinguished Michigan State professor and Peter Brews, Dean of UNC's International MBA Program. Zhao will address American education in the age of globalization, and Brews will speak on America in the Global Economy. Concurrent sessions include: empowering students through service-learning; teaching environmental sustainability; teaching global ethics; globalizing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs; project-based learning, and more. World View also offers support for school-based teams in creating global action plans for their schools.

Co-sponsored by the North Carolina State Board of Education, the UNC Schools of Education and Business (Kenan-Flagler), and the Center for International Understanding. Please call 919/962-9264 for more information, or register online at <http://www.unc.edu/world/regform.shtml>.

LEARN NC Fall 2009 Interactive Conference

LEARN NC is excited to host educators from all over the state at their fall 2009 conference. This year's conference, to be held on Thursday October 1st from 1pm to 5pm, takes a hybrid format, making it possible for more educators to participate than ever before. The day is divided into morning and afternoon sections, with virtual participation options available for those who can't make the trip to Chapel Hill.

Teachers, media specialists, technology coordinators, professional development coordinators, administrators, and other leaders in curriculum and instruction will all benefit from this conference. Whether you are teaching students in the classroom, or working at the school or system level developing curriculum and delivering professional development, the LEARN NC fall conference will provide new ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration to help you make the best use of your scarcest resource... time!

The day will consist of a variety of sessions, including two hands-on interactive sessions in the morning for face-to-face participants, and afternoon sessions that cover topics including best practices in online teaching, teaching "digital natives," and implementing project-based learning in your classroom. For complete details, see the [conference agenda page](#).

National News...

L.A.'s School Control Plan Takes Off

The Los Angeles Unified School District, with roughly 690,000 students, has labored for years to lift student achievement, and a groundbreaking plan to open 51 new L.A. schools and 200 existing ones to possible outside control may not only be the answer, but could become one of the country's most sweeping education experiments.

Under the L.A. Unified plan, charter groups and other outside operators will be able to bid to run the new campuses and about 200 of the district's poorest-performing schools. While those best-positioned to bid for schools are the larger charter management organizations, other potential players include Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the powerful teachers union, which at one time vigorously opposed the plan.

The reform plan will be overseen by newly arrived district official Matt Hill, whose \$160,000 salary is paid by the foundation of philanthropist Eli Broad. Hill's staff expenses are likely to be covered in part by a \$4.3 million grant from Los Angeles sports executive Casey Wasserman. Both donors have given money to charter schools, and Broad has said he hopes charters will gradually dismantle the L.A. Unified School District.

Harvard Offers Doctorate in Education Leadership

The Harvard Graduate School of Education announced this week that it will offer a new, tuition-free doctoral degree in education leadership, its first new degree in 74 years. Supported in part by the Wallace Foundation, which has given Harvard a \$10 million grant, the program aims to train graduates for senior leadership roles in school systems, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

School officials liken the Doctor of Education Leadership Program to the education equivalent of a law or medical degree. It will be taught by faculty from the education school, Harvard Business School, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. The three-year program will begin in August 2010 with 25 students.

Students in the third year of the program will be participating in a yearlong residency with urban public school systems in New York City, Atlanta, and Denver, as well as national organizations focused on changing K-12 education, including Teach for America, New Leaders for New Schools, and the National Center of Education and the Economy.

SC Education Chief to Challenge Governor Sanford

South Carolina Superintendent of Education Jim Rex, a Democrat who has squared off against Republican Governor Mark Sanford over school choice, stimulus funding, and whether the state would participate in the common standards movement, now wants the governor's job.

In an opinion piece in *The State* newspaper, he declared his plans to run as a "turnaround governor" in the 2010 election. Rex was elected in 2006 in a tight race that ended in a recount.

Forum News...

Education Policy Fellowship Program Begins New Year

Tuesday marked the beginning of the 19th year that the Forum has sponsored the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP). This year's EPFP cohort is the largest of the participating states with 26 fellows. The program is focused on mid-career professionals in the educational, policy making and non-profit communities. The goal of the program is to introduce participants to educational policymaking at the state and national levels.

Included in this year's EPFP program are participants from: LEARN NC, The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, NCASA, MCNC/NC STEM, Visiting International Faculty Program, and the Public School Forum. In addition, several school systems and higher education programs will be represented, including: Appalachian State University and Chatham, Union, Nash/Rocky Mount, Guilford, Granville, Warren, Greene and Chapel Hill-Carrboro school systems.

Forum staffers Jo Ann Norris and Kendall Jordan co-coordinate the program. According to Jordan, "The size of this year's class shows the importance placed on education policy and professional development in our state. This year's fellows represent a large array of backgrounds and viewpoints which will provide for a rich experience."

Reminder: Teaching Fellows Scholarship Application Available

The application for the Teaching Fellows Scholarship Loan is available on the Teaching Fellows webpage at www.ncteachingfellows.org. The \$26,000 scholarship is for 500 current high school seniors who want to become great teachers. Fellows are given a uniquely enhanced teacher preparation program which includes leadership, travel, early school experiences, and special summer opportunities. The program seeks talented students who want to make a difference in the lives of others and have a passion for learning. The deadline for submission is October 16th by the close of the school day. The application and references must be turned into the high school Teaching Fellows Liaison Counselor. Don't delay. Apply today!

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