



Adelante Education Coalition

May 16, 2008

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Member
Organizations**

*Blue Ribbon
Mentor-Advocate
Program*

*Center for
Participatory
Change*

El Pueblo, Inc.

NC Justice Center

NC Latino Coalition

*NC Society of
Hispanic
Professionals*

*Student Action
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*Communities In
Schools of NC*

*College Foundation
of NC*

*NC Center for
International
Understanding*

*NC Migrant
Education Program*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADELANTE STANDS UP FOR COLLEGE ACCESS

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Adelante Education Coalition Continues Efforts to Ensure Community College Access for ALL Students

Raleigh, NC – In light of the recent memo released by the North Carolina Community College System, we, the Adelante Education Coalition, continue to support the principle that all academically qualified students should be able to enroll in NC's community colleges. We believe that the education of our youth is essential to the quality of life for all North Carolinians. We strongly oppose any effort to restrict or deny education to any North Carolina students.

Access to higher education for all students strengthens our future tax base. It gives an opportunity to young people who have grown up in North Carolina to obtain the higher education they have earned. Our state would receive long-term economic benefits that these students can provide as a highly educated and bilingual workforce. We must invest in the future of NC and the people who live, work and raise families here.

This is a workforce development issue. North Carolina's state and local governments, businesses, and industry currently recruit college graduates from outside the state, as well as outside the US, to fill shortages in the fields of business, education, and health services. A number of children of immigrants have the potential to satisfy many of these essential job needs in NC. Immigrants pay taxes, hold jobs, and are raise families; most will be here for the rest of their lives. It is important for all of NC that they move up the economic ladder and become self-sufficient engines of the NC economy. Access to our colleges will increase the state's collective productivity and economic growth by preparing an educated workforce.

These are qualified North Carolina students. According to the law, any student in North Carolina is entitled to a public school education until the 12th grade,

meaning that our state has already invested significantly in their education. These are high school students who did not come to our state by their own choice, who have attended elementary and secondary schools in this state for most of their lives, are high achieving and highly motivated and are likely to remain in the state if they are given opportunities to succeed.

Undocumented students must still pay out-of-state tuition. To enroll into NC Community Colleges these students will still pay over \$2,000 more than the actual cost of educating the students. This is NOT about in-state tuition. We as North Carolinians are proud of our public, post-secondary educational systems, the NC Community College System and the University of North Carolina campuses. Our state was the first to establish public higher education programs in the late 1700's and we do not accept any efforts to restrict or deny education to certain groups of North Carolina students. Equal access, open door policies and nondiscrimination are values we hold dearly. By embracing all students that have earned the right to get a higher education, we can stay true to those values.

For more information: <http://www.adelantenc.org/>

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