

**Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce
Issues Committee
2008 Short Session
North Carolina General Assembly
Success Card**

Issues Committee Recommendations	Action	Comments
<p>Increased funding to address projected gaps in supplying the workforce in occupations requiring education at community colleges for registered nurses, medical assistants, dental hygiene assistants, respiratory therapists and many other medical technicians in all communities in eastern North Carolina.</p>	<p>The budget bill contained \$4 million to aid community colleges in the training of allied health students.</p>	<p>This funding will be critical as the community college system continues to meet the ever increasing demand for healthcare professionals and technicians.</p>
<p>Recurring funding amounting to \$5 million is necessary to reimburse the Brody School of Medicine for direct costs incurred for providing medical care to indigent patients in eastern North Carolina. Currently, the university receives no recurring funding for such care.</p>	<p>No action was taken.</p>	<p>Providing medical care to all patients is priority number one for the Brody School of Medicine. However, this is increasingly difficult from a financial standpoint as the costs associated with indigent care are absorbed within the BSOM budget.</p>
<p>The Department of Family Medicine needs \$36.8 million in state appropriated funds to be added to \$10 million in funding from ECU in order to create a Family Medicine Center Building at the Brody School of Medicine.</p>	<p>The budget bill contained \$36.8 million for the construction of the Family Medical and Geriatric Center.</p>	<p>Both of these facilities will be of innumerable benefit to the region creating jobs and promoting quality health care for years to come.</p>
<p>The ECU School of Dentistry needs \$62 million in order to complete the primary facility and the ten statewide satellite sites. An additional \$2 million of recurring funding is also necessary to assist ECU in the establishment of the School of Dentistry</p>	<p>The budget bill contained \$69 million for the ECU School of Dentistry, \$1.5 million to help with expansion of the ECU and UNC medical schools and \$1.5 million to hire professional and planning staff for the ECU School of Dentistry.</p>	<p>Ranking near the bottom in dentists per capita, Eastern North Carolina is in dire need of dental professionals. This funding supports the university's mission of service as ten satellite campuses will be strategically located throughout the state. This new institution, along with the satellite campuses, will increase access to dental professionals on a statewide level.</p>

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