NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

January 17, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community College Presidents

FROM: Bill Randall
             Associate Vice President
             Learning Technology Systems

SUBJECT: Broadband Connectivity Project Update

Much has transpired in recent weeks that will impact the rollout of broadband connectivity upgrades across the NCCCS including:

- A meeting with Dr. Saundra Williams (and staff) and NC Deputy CIO Sharon Hayes (and staff) concerning action steps required for short-term broadband connectivity solutions via ITS Service Level Agreements involving cooperation and collaboration with MCNC.
- Verbal acknowledgment by MCNC President Joe Freddoso and State CIO George Bakolia that the NCCCS will be part of the proposed K-20 NC Education Data Network (NC EdNet).
- Two-year rollout proposed for NC EdNet in keeping with LEA Broadband Connectivity Plan will provide basis for NCCCS long-term broadband connectivity target goals.

In order to accommodate a short-term bandwidth solution, we are negotiating with ITS to create an agreeable upgrade plan that can be implemented within a reasonable time frame.

We are emailing your IT Directors a request for verification of primary and secondary contact names and telephone numbers. This is to provide System Office staff and ITS with accurate contact information as direct communication will soon take place between ITS, your IT Director, and appropriate Internet service providers (IPS)s in your service area. System Office staff will work with ITS to generate weekly updates on status of work orders.

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Most community colleges will require an upgrade from copper to fiber optic connectivity. ITS can arrange for site surveys to determine the best means to provide fiber to your main campus. ITS will also arrange communication between your (selected) IPS and your staff regarding equipment installation, testing, and switch-over to the new fiber service.

Please send any questions to Dr. Bill Randall, Associate Vice President for Learning Technology Systems, at 919-807-7061 or randallb@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

BR:sh
c: Dr. Saundra Wall Williams
        Mr. Kennon D. Briggs
        Community College System Administrators

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