

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2006

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund awards \$1.6 million in grants to reduce tobacco use among NC 18-24 year olds

(Raleigh, NC) – Today, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) announced the awarding of \$1.6 million in college and community college tobacco use prevention and cessation grants. These grants are part of the first state-funded effort to prevent and reduce tobacco use among college-age youth in North Carolina.

As part of this initiative, a total of \$1.6 million was awarded over two years to 20 colleges, community colleges, health departments and organizations across the state. Each grant recipient will work to establish smoke free policies on NC campuses and to promote the new, HWTF-funded NC Tobacco Use Quitline ([1-800-QUIT-NOW](tel:1-800-QUIT-NOW)) to 18-24 year olds. By awarding these grants, HWTF is taking a leadership position in addressing the troubling trend of increased tobacco use among this age group.

Tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death not only in the United States, but right here in North Carolina. Despite this fact, almost 28% of college age youth in North Carolina smoke; and 18-24 year olds represent the *only* age group nationally in which smoking rates are rising rather than falling. According to the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health released today, young adults aged 18 to 25 continue to have the highest rate of current use of a tobacco product among all age groups.

“Too many of our young people are entering our colleges, community colleges and universities where they have easy access to tobacco products and are also being exposed to second-hand smoke,” said Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue, HWTF chair. “I am pleased that HWTF is expanding its statewide teen tobacco program to reach our state’s college-age population. By working directly with 18-24 year olds, these grantees will have an opportunity to turn the tide on this growing trend of tobacco use among this group.”

All grant recipients are listed by name, amount awarded and campuses served in the table on attached pages.

ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested \$127 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$78 million to fund a prescription drug assistance program. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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**NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund
College/Community College Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation
Grant Awards**

College / Community College / Organization	Amount Awarded	Campuses / Community Colleges Served
Albemarle Regional Health Services	\$289,960	Chowan College Beaufort CC Edgecombe CC Halifax CC Hertford CC Martin CC Pamlico CC Pasquotank CC
American Lung Association	\$38,500	Elizabeth City State Fayetteville State NCCU Shaw WSSU
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College	\$80,000	ABTECH
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute	\$40,000	Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute
Cleveland Community College	\$40,000	Cleveland Community College
East Carolina University	\$79,930	East Carolina University
Elizabeth City State University	\$39,996	Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University	\$40,000	Fayetteville State University
Lenoir County Health Department	\$40,000	Lenoir CC
Mecklenburg County Health Department	\$200,000	Belmont Abby Johnson C. Smith Queens University Davidson College Johnson and Wales UNC-Charlotte King's College Carolina College of Health Sciences Brookstone College of Business Mercy School of Nursing Pfeiffer University Stanley CC Gaston College Gaston College at Lincoln Lenoir Rhyne Catawba Valley Mitchell CC Catawba College Livingstone College Wingate University South Piedmont CC South Piedmont CC at Anson Gardner-Webb University

**NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund
College/Community College Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation
Grant Awards**

College / Community College / Organization	Amount Awarded	Campuses/Community Colleges Served
Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation	\$61,310	High Point University Guilford College Bennett College NC A&T Greensboro College UNC-Greensboro Guilford Tech CC
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (NCA&T) State University	\$80,000	North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (NCA&T) State University
North Carolina Central University	\$164,153	NCCU Other HMCUs
SAVE (Survivors and Victims of Tobacco Empowerment) of NC GASP	\$80,000	Statewide campuses
Surry County Health and Nutrition Center	\$39,000	Surry CC
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	\$120,000	UNC-Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Pembroke	\$39,290	UNC-Pembroke
University of North Carolina at Wilmington – CROSSROADS	\$75,243	UNC-Wilmington
Wilkes Community College	\$80,000	Wilkes CC
Wilson Technical Community College	\$60,000	Wilson Technical CC
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$1,687,382	