



## **North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 28, 2007**

**Alma S. Adams, Ph.D., Chair**

Since its inception The North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Foundation has supported and promoted higher education primarily among African American students and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by providing scholarships and sponsoring annual education conferences.

To involve and educate a broader base of North Carolinians, the Foundation has also spearheaded initiatives to encourage and support dialogue and understanding around issues affecting our state's poor and underserved communities by hosting forums, educational summits and listening tours across the state.

The Foundation has carried forward a long tradition of support for African American students attending HBCUs. Annual scholarship awards to these schools have averaged \$55,000 (\$5,000 per school). In past years each school determined the recipients of these awards.

During the academic years 2005 and 2006, the Foundation solicited and received recommendations of students (based on academic promise and financial need) from members of the Legislative Black Caucus. As in previous years, all scholarship funds were issued directly to the college or university and applied to tuition and fees.

The Foundation provided scholarships totaling approximately \$28,000 in 2005 and \$26,000 in 2006. Roughly one-tenth of the total scholarship funds provided during these years benefited relatives of five legislators. To the best of the Foundation's knowledge, the scholarship funds benefited students with financial need and academic promise, and there was no intention to improperly benefit a legislator.

In 2007, the Foundation has provided more than \$12,000 to assist deserving college students, of which none were relatives of legislators. The Foundation is reviewing its process for determining appropriate guidelines for awarding scholarships and making revisions to ensure the integrity of the process and the organization.

The Foundation remains committed to keeping students in school by providing scholarships based on need and academic promise.