



The Compass



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New scholarship program offered

ECSU seeks top NC high school students

High School students in Northeastern North Carolina may be given unique scholarship opportunities at Elizabeth City State University this year. At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees, ECSU Chancellor Jimmy R. Jenkins and UNC President C.D. Spangler, Jr. announced a set of major initiatives for the University.

The new plan, developed for ECSU by Chancellor Jenkins and President Spangler, is expected to attract highly qualified students, to improve academic programs, and to promote a better working relationship with area public schools and community colleges.

The centerpiece of the plan is a scholarship program for new students, both freshmen and transfer students. "I think it is an excellent opportunity for ECSU to take advantage of resources we have not had in the past, to compete for those students we felt could be and would be excellent students at ECSU," Jenkins said.

The program would provide \$3,000 per year, enough to cover the \$834 annual tuition and fees and to help defray costs of housing, food and books.

"Elements of the plan are unique in the University's history," President Spangler said. "I will be giving it a lot of my attention, as well as my colleagues in UNC General Administration. We will be working closely with Chancellor Jenkins to ensure that the plan is carried out, with whatever revisions seem sensible as we move along."

Lloyd V. Hackley, UNC Vice President for Student Services and Special Pro-

grams, explained that the new procedures will help offset a drain of the best black students to the historically white universities in the state. That drain has been significant since 1981 when the University, under a federal court order, took steps to encourage integration throughout the system.

To be eligible for the scholarship program, freshmen must be graduates of high schools in one of the following counties: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hyde and Washington. Students must rank in the top half of their graduating class and meet all ECSU admissions standards. In addition, they must agree to carry at least 15 semester hours per semester, to give eight hours to public service activities, and to undergo standardized assessments periodically to assist in evaluating how well they are being educated. To remain eligible, scholarship students would have to earn a grade point average of 2.0 in the freshman year; 2.5 in the sophomore year; and 3.0 thereafter.

Those eligible for scholarships as transfer students must have completed one or two years of study at one of the following institutions in Northeastern N.C.: the College of the Albermarle, Halifax Community College, Martin Community College, and Roanoke-Chowan Technical College. Transfer students must also meet requirements regarding coursework taken and grade point averages prior to admittance. Other eligibility require-

ments are similar to those for non-transfer scholarship students.

Other elements of the plan announced include a review and evaluation of all academic programs at ECSU, a separate evaluation of teacher preparation programs, and a review of administrative and management systems, with special emphasis on student services (admissions, financial aid, and student counseling). A "warranty" system for teacher trainees will be implemented as a part of this new program. The "warranty" system, the first of its kind in the state, will ensure that graduates of the program learn essential teaching skills. ECSU will be required to provide remedial instruction to working teachers if their knowledge in some area is considered deficient.

The University of North Carolina will ask the General Assembly for funding for 150-250 new scholarships per year, so that the number on scholarships could rise to a level of 600 to 1,000 after four years. Because many students eligible for the special scholarship program will also qualify for assistance under existing federal and state program (and must agree to apply for such aid), the additional cost will be considerably less than \$3,000 per student.

In explaining why Elizabeth City State University was singled out for special assistance, President Spangler said, "This is the only state-supported four-year institution of higher education in Northeastern N.C., so it has a vital mission in the academic and economic life of that part of the state. I think it is a good place to experiment with some fresh approaches."

According to survey

Business careers popular with students

One freshman in four is planning a career in business, while interest has increased toward teaching but decreased toward computers, according to a national survey of college freshmen.

The 21st annual survey by the University of California, Los Angeles, and the American Council on Education also found more freshmen going into debt and fewer getting federal grants for college.

Seventeen percent of the freshmen reported getting Pell Grants, federal scholarships based on need for low- and middle-income students,

compared with almost 20 percent last year and 31.5 percent in 1980.

By contrast, more than a quarter of the freshmen have taken out Guaranteed Student Loans, up from 23 percent last year and about 21 percent in 1980.

The Reagan administration, in its new 1988 budget, proposed cutting the \$3.8 billion Pell Grant program in half over two years and

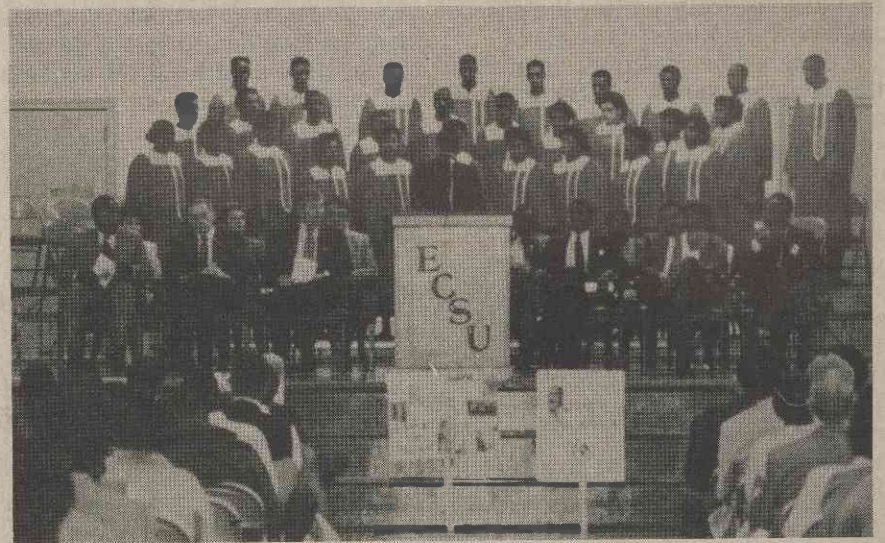
sharply reducing or eliminating student loan subsidies.

A record 24.1 percent of stu-

dent responding to the survey said they were headed for ca-

reers in business, up from 23.9 percent in 1985. In 1968, at the height of the counterculture and campus protests against the Vietnam war, fewer than 12 percent of freshmen were grooming themselves for corporate America.

Alexander W. Astin, a UCLA education professor who directed the study, attributed the increase to improved starting salaries and a strong job market.



King Honored

Martin Luther King's birthday was celebrated on the ECSU campus with a variety of events, including an assembly on January 19 in Williams Hall (top two pictures). The bottom picture is of the art exhibit titled "The Negro Experience in America" presently on display in the Johnson Hall Art Gallery.