

# Students recruit for UNC

BY SAMANTHA HALPERN  
STAFF WRITER

Volunteers for Tarheel Target, a more than 20-year-old outreach program through the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, are ready to help Chancellor Holden Thorp recruit the best students possible for UNC.

During Fall Break, almost 100 current UNC students will return to their high schools to speak to students about the college application process and characteristics and opportunities at UNC.

The program is targeted at recruiting minority students but the discussions open to any interested high school student.

Chese'Qua Evans, outreach and support program coordinator in the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, said Tarheel Target is an opportunity for UNC students to serve as ambassadors and provide a more personal experience for students from their high schools.

She said ambassadors give pointers about how the college

application process works, talk about why they think UNC is so great and recount their personal experiences in college.

"The program is very successful in encouraging students to apply to Carolina, increasing the application pool," Evans said.

Junior Krista Stepney has volunteered and visited her alma mater, Green Hope High School in Cary, for two years. She is now one of the program's six student coordinators.

Stepney said when she visited her high school, she spoke about different events and organizations on campus that she was involved in.

"It's different when you hear the story from a Carolina student," Stepney said. "It gives the students a personal feel, a personal touch."

The Dean of Students at Green Hope High School, Sarah Welsh, said a large number of Green Hope students have said they hope to attend UNC when they graduate.

She said they enjoy talking to

current students because they are close in age and get more information about students' personal lives at UNC.

"Anything that Carolina does with us is very favorable," Welsh said.

Tarheel Target holds two training sessions before students return to their high schools in order for students to accurately provide information about UNC.

An admissions official speaks to the volunteers about basic facts, application information and statistics about the current first-year class.

Junior Anika Fisher said she participated in recruitment events when UNC students came to her high school and now is volunteering for Tarheel Target for the third year.

"I guess it was a cause and effect type of thing," Fisher said. "I think it is important for people in my area to know that Carolina is an option for them."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Many unaffected by account change

BY ASHLEY BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

About 60 percent of faculty participating in UNC's voluntary retirement program will see no change in their investments.

And human resources officials said the other 40 percent would be better off moving their accounts into UNC's approved companies, especially with the troubled markets.

During the Faculty Council meeting Friday, members were notified that their 403(b) Voluntary Supplemental Retirement Program options would be cut from seven vendors to two.

Beginning Jan. 1, faculty and staff only will be able to invest in a retirement fund under Fidelity Investments or TIAA-CREF, companies that were in the original seven.

The voluntary retirement fund is an option for employees to invest a percentage of their paycheck in addition to the state retirement or 401(k) plan. Investments remain untaxed until money is removed.

The reduction in investment vendors is the result of 2007 Internal Revenue Service regulations, which shift more investment

responsibilities from the employees to the University.

Employees on all 17 campuses in the UNC system will be affected.

To effectively oversee the retirement accounts, the UNC-system General Administration decided to select only two providers through a competitive bid process, said Brian Usischon, senior director of benefits and employee services.

Of the 2,700 UNC-Chapel Hill employees participating in the supplemental retirement program, about 1,620 are already investing in funds through Fidelity Investments or TIAA-CREF.

But Usischon said the vendor selection was not solely based on employee convenience.

He said system administrators reviewed the vendors on a variety of factors, such as investment offerings, employee educational tools and financial stability.

Fidelity Investments and TIAA-CREF have weathered the financial turmoil of the past few weeks fairly well. AIG Retirement, which also has a large market from UNC-system employees, is now being rescued by the federal government.

During Friday's Faculty Council meeting, members expressed concerns with the number of investment options available.

To help alleviate those worries, Usischon said the University plans to provide a list of approved investment advisers and hold information sessions and counseling with each of the vendors.

Steve Bachenheimer, a microbiology and immunology professor, said he thinks people will experience little change.


Employees may continue to earn interest on their "disqualified" accounts, but they will not be able to invest more money in them. Some companies might charge a fee to switch retirement funds.

Faculty Secretary Joe Ferrell said he won't take his investments out of the unapproved accounts.

"I think the strategy would be different for someone a bit younger than what I am who is putting money into a growth fund," he said. "The circumstances are different for different people."

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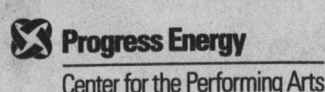


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