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**CABARRUS COLLEGE NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT INCREASES 35%**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Concord, NC, February 13, 2009-** Judging by the spring enrollment at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, education is one investment that people still believe will generate a positive return.

New student enrollment in academic programs jumped 35% for the spring semester compared to spring 2008. Highlights of spring enrollment include:

- Total enrollment for the spring semester topped 359 students (81 new);
- An overall enrollment increase of 4% compared to spring 2008;
- 454 students have enrolled in academic credit in 2008-09, a 5% increase compared to the fall, spring and summer semesters in the 2007-08 academic year.

In addition to an enrollment increase, the college is experiencing a shift in the demographic profile of students enrolled at the college. Students from a minority background composed 27% of new student enrollment, a 10% increase from the previous spring. The average age of new students entering the college for the spring semester is 30. 11% of new students are men, a 5% increase from spring 2008.

Brooks Little, 24, a resident of Kannapolis and 2007 graduate of North Carolina State University with a degree in animal science, is entering the associate degree nursing program. Little states, "I am going into nursing because I enjoy helping people. I want to become a traveling nurse and hope to spend time in Alaska and California after I graduate."

Mark Ellison, director of admissions states, "The College has seen a 69% increase in open house attendance compared to last year. Many students who have earned bachelors degrees in other



Valerie Richard, Director of Financial Aid, discusses financial aid information with Cabarrus College student Brooks Little.

academic areas are now looking at opportunities in healthcare. We are also seeing a noticeable increase in the number of people visiting the college who have lost a job, as well as entire families (mother, father and children) looking to pursue careers in healthcare”.

Over 87% of students enrolled at Cabarrus College received financial aid during 2008-09, with over \$3 million awarded. The College worked with a number of students in the spring semester offering payment plans to extend payment of tuition over the course of the semester. Cabarrus College is hosting a College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) FAFSA completion and submission assistance session on Saturday, February 21 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Registration is available online at [CFNC.org/FAFSADAY](http://CFNC.org/FAFSADAY), or by calling 866-866-CFNC.

Cabarrus College is currently accepting applications for the fall 2009 semester. Applications received by March 1<sup>st</sup> receive priority consideration. Applications can be submitted after March 1<sup>st</sup> and will be reviewed on a space available basis. The college will host one more open house before the deadline, welcoming the community on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 4: 30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Additional open houses will be held on March 19, April 21 and May 19.

For additional information about Cabarrus College of Health Sciences please call 704-403-1555 or 1556.

### **About Cabarrus College of Health Sciences**

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences is located on the campus of CMC-NorthEast in Concord, North Carolina. Over 454 students are enrolled in five associate degree and three baccalaureate completion programs. Associate degree programs include medical assistant, nursing, occupational therapy assistant, surgical technology and associate in science. Baccalaureate completion programs include health services leadership and management, medical imaging and nursing. The College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Cabarrus College has experienced tremendous growth this decade, with enrollment doubling and applications for admission increasing nearly 200% since 2003. For additional information visit online at [www.cabarruscollege.edu](http://www.cabarruscollege.edu).