

## ECU Announces Partnership with NC Department of Public Instruction Giving HS Students College Credits

East Carolina University's Department of Technology Systems has joined forces with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education in a partnership that will help accelerate the preparation of students entering the fields of engineering and technology by eliminating the redundancy of instruction in the fundamental skill of understanding the safe configuration, operation, and troubleshooting of personal computer components and systems.



Dr. Philip Lunsford and Dr. Elmer Poe with State Board of Education Representatives

Prior to the agreement, students in North Carolina took courses like Computer Engineering Technology (CET) while in high school. However, once in college they were required to enroll in courses which taught similar instruction as those in the CET classes.

“There was a level of academic redundancy that we believe could be avoided,” said Dr. Phil Lunsford, from the ECU Department of Technology Systems.

“This partnership with the Department of Public Instruction is a real win-win situation for the high schools, ECU and most of all, the students.”

The agreement allows for students to receive college credit at East Carolina University if they complete all of the below requirements:

- 7991 CET I and 7992 CET II with a grade of “B” or higher
- Successfully complete the CompTIA A+ Certification
- Enroll in a Technology Systems Degree Program at ECU

“We (NCDPI) are very pleased to have formed this partnership with ECU,” said David Barbour, Education Consultant for Trade and Industrial Education in the NC Department of Public Instruction. “It will definitely eliminate the instruction redundancy as well as save our students time and money required for preparation. Through this program, students can get a certification as well as university credit they can use after high school.”

This has the potential to affect a large number of high school students in the state. As a matter of fact, in 2006-2007, more than 8,300 high school students in NC could have been eligible for this academic credit if it was available and they met the requirements.

The agreement was officially presented as a part of State Superintendent Dr. June Atkinson's report to the board at the State Board of Education Meeting on June 5, 2008. This agreement will be reviewed every two years for any necessary adjustments.