

About the Program: College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC.org) and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO) are co-sponsors of the North Carolina **College Application Week (CAW)**, held every year in November since 2005. This statewide college access program provides every graduating high school senior in North Carolina the opportunity to apply to college online through CFNC.org. Special focus is placed on assisting students who would be the first in their families to attend college and students who may not have otherwise seriously considered applying to college.

Program Growth: CAW began in 2005 as a pilot program working with one GEAR UP high school in Chatham County. In only six years, CAW has expanded statewide with over 166,000 total online applications submitted through CFNC.org by students during this week. In 2010, 470 high schools participated and covered every school district in the state with nearly 44,000 online applications submitted through CFNC.org in just five days. More than 60% of participating public high schools had a free-reduced lunch student population of 35% or higher; thereby showing CAW is assisting students in need as they apply to college.

Application Fee Waivers: All 110 North Carolina colleges and universities accept the College Board fee waiver for students with financial need as determined by the school counselor. Since CAW is focused on students who may be the first in their families to apply to college (many of whom may qualify for the College Board fee waiver), school counselors are encouraged to reach out to those students prior to and during CAW. Some institutions waive application fees for all students during CAW and a list of these institutions can be found on CFNC.org/CAW. (Note: all 58 North Carolina Community Colleges have free applications at all times)

CAW Effectiveness: Preliminary analysis of CAW 2008 data demonstrates the vast majority of students who participated in CAW enrolled in a North Carolina college or university in the following fall semester. Of the 19,356 participants who submitted at least one application through CFNC.org during CAW, 84% (16,324) provided enough information to submit them to the National Student Clearinghouse to verify subsequent college enrollment. Of those submitted for verification, 79% (12,762) enrolled in college. Of those who enrolled, 89% (11,370) enrolled in North Carolina. Of the remaining 11,335 students that enrolled at a higher education institution in North Carolina at either a UNC, NCCCS, or NCICU institution, 4,889 (43.13%) of 11,335 enrolled at a postsecondary institution that they applied to during College Application Week 2008.

A Model Program: Since 2008, North Carolina has worked with several southern states as they developed a CAW. These states include South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia, all of which have successfully developed a program modeling the North Carolina CAW. This consortium of southern states presented together on this CAW model at GEAR UP's national conference in Washington, DC in July 2010 and at the Southern Regional Educational Board Go Alliance meeting in November 2010.

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