

**North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University**

**Preliminary Report**

**Academic Summer Bridge Program  
June 26, 2008-August 1, 2008**

Submitted by:

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North Carolina A&T State University continues the goal of improving its retention rate by offering an Academic Summer Bridge Program. The University planned and implemented a five-week residential academic program that began June 26-August 1, 2008. Thirty-four incoming freshmen including in-state and out-of-state students participated. The retention rate from our Academic Summer Bridge 2007 pilot program was seventy percent (70%).

The primary emphasis of the program was geared toward the improvement of Mathematics and Critical Writing skills. Participants were placed in one of three Math classes based on the ACCUPLACER test score. The Math classes were: Intermediate Math (Math 099), Fundamental Algebra and Trigonometry I (Math 101) and Pre Calculus Engineering Science (Math 110). The majority of the students in this cohort were enrolled in Math 099.

Students participated in interactive skill development workshops, life skills seminars, and professional development workshops. The sessions were a requirement of the students and were facilitated by members of The Center for Academic Excellence, The Office of Counseling Services, and the Office of Career Services. (See attachment for Seminar Topics).

Additionally, during the five-week period, students attended a Financial Literacy seminar entitled, "Learning, Earning, and Investing" in the Financial Trading Room (FTR) in the School of Business and Economics. The seminars were facilitated by Dr. Wanda Lester, Associate Dean, and Mrs. Sandra Jones-Strayhorn, faculty member and Financial Trading Room Technical Director.

The first two weeks students were introduced to financial literacy and later exposed to stock market simulations and investing in the market. Students researched and created a portfolio on a company of their choosing. One of the most exciting components and learning experiences of the seminar was the research project. Students were placed into groups and each group was given \$1,000 (mock) to invest with the goal of achieving a return on the investment. Some groups took higher risk than others. The project was competitive among

the students with the winners receiving an engraved NCA&T mug and second place winners receiving a glass mug. Awards were presented during the closing ceremony.

Academic Summer Bridge provided a unique opportunity for entering first-year students to transition from high school to college. It is our belief, and comments from many of the students and parents confirm, the program was an avenue for them to experience clear guidelines about what they have to do to be successful. The Academic Summer Bridge program is unique and important because it connects all the schools across the University spectrum. Students are well informed about the importance of time management, available resources, and the campus community. The program provided academic, social, and personal support. An important feature of the effectiveness of the program is that it is connected to everyday student learning needs.

**Program Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Academic Summer Bridge Program, 2008 was to provide a rigorous academic residential program that assists entering freshmen students in making a successful transition from high school to college. The academic and related programs prepared students to become a part of an exciting learning community that engaged them through academic instruction, active learning, and social activities. The Program supported the University’s commitment to excellence by providing students with:

- A stimulating and challenging academic experience
- Personalized, comprehensive advising and counseling
- An intellectually and socially enriching residential experience

**Academic Bridge Students and Admission Data:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>HOMETOWN</b>	<b>GPA</b>
	Visual Arts Design	Durham, NC	2.776
	Undeclared	Williamston NC	2.367
	Civil Engineering	Lake City SC	3.208
	Criminal Justice	Raleigh NC	2.363
	Biology	Charlotte NC	2.380
	Animal Science	Kenansville NC	3.119
	Fashion Merchandise	Greenville NC	3.170
	Undeclared	Shelby NC	2.250
	Business Administration	Jonesboro GA	3.53
	Undeclared	Raleigh NC	2.916
	Child Development	Raleigh NC	2.604
	Biology	Roxboro NC	2.500
	Mechanical Engineering	August GA	3.100
	Business Administration	Ahoskie NC	3.520
	Social Work	Durham NC	2.540
	Undeclared	Charlotte NC	2.330
	JOMC (Broadcast Prod.)	Greenville NC	2.875

	Business Administration	Greenville NC	2.79
	Mechanical Engineering	Cleveland OH	3.510
	Mathematics	Charlotte NC	2.458
	Undeclared	Philadelphia PA	3.600
	Business Administration	Washington DC	3.430
	Physics	Charlotte NC	2.870
	Biology	Winston Salem NC	2.600
	Animal Science	Elizabeth City NC	3.410
	Mechanical Engineering	Lansdale PA	3.000
	Nursing	Charlotte NC	3.520
	Civil Engineering	Easley SC	3.460
	Psychology	Elizabeth City NC	2.840
	Electrical Engineering	Washington DC	3.200
	Undeclared	Cary NC	2.790
	Arts and Sciences	Knightsdale NC	2.625
	Vocational Business Educ.	Raleigh NC	2.540

**Student Fall Schedules (See Attachment A)**

**Program Schedule (See Attachment B)**

**Social Activities (See Attachment C)**

**Closing Ceremony Program (See Attachment E)**

**Academic Summer Bridge DVD (See Attachment F)**

**Enrolled Courses, Grades and credits earned (See Attachment G)**

***Procedure for Follow-up on Student Progress***

Each School or College Retention Coordinator will maintain contact and track the progress of the students.