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## Rowan-Cabarrus, Gaston colleges honored

Charlotte Business Journal

The N.C. Community College System has honored the small-business centers at two colleges in the Charlotte region for their economic-development, job-retention and job-creation achievements.

The centers are at **Rowan-Cabarrus Community College** and **Gaston College**.

"The N.C. Community Colleges' small-business center network is one of the largest, state-funded small-business assistance networks in the nation," says Scott Ralls, president of N.C. Community College System. "The contribution they make to communities and individuals across the state is vital to North Carolina's economic recovery."

The small-business center award recognizes accomplishments during the 2008-09 school year.

During that year, the state's 58 community colleges provided entrepreneurship training to 66,500 individuals. And they provided one-on-one counseling to an additional 5,780 individuals. The centers helped start 536 businesses, create 1,826 jobs and retain 1,521 jobs, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College says.

The small-business center at **College of The Albemarle** also was recognized by the state system. The school has campuses in Elizabeth City, Manteo and Edenton.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College has campuses in Rowan and Cabarrus counties. It offers fully accredited associate degrees in more than 40 fields.

Gaston College enrolls 7,000 students each term in curriculum programs and averages about 16,000 students annually in its continuing-education programs. The school has campuses in Dallas, Lincolnton and Belmont.

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