

Tennessee aims to offer community college for free

Some experts doubt such a plan would be feasible in N.C.

By Lindsey Brunson
Staff Writer

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam unveiled a plan to offer high school graduates two years of free community college education in his State of the State address last week — but higher education analysts are skeptical that a similar program would work in North Carolina.

Haslam, a Republican, dubbed the initiative the Tennessee Promise, which he said could be paid for via state lottery money.

“We are fighting the rising cost of higher education, and we are raising our expectations as a state,” Haslam said. “We are committed to making a clear statement to families that education beyond high school is a priority in the state of Tennessee.”

But N.C. education analysts said the promise might not be all that it seems.

George Leef, the director of research for the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, a right-leaning nonprofit in Raleigh, said a plan for free community college would not be a good idea in North Carolina, Tennessee or anywhere else.

“The problem with making education free is that people are apt to value it less, take it less seriously, if they don’t have something of their own at stake in it,” Leef said. “We shouldn’t artificially encourage people.”

Warren Nichols, the vice chancellor of community colleges for the Tennessee Board of Regents, said he was excited about the governor’s proposal. He said the plan is an opportunity for more students to attend community or technical colleges, which he said most high schoolers in the state deem unaffordable at \$4,000 a year.

“They just don’t have that kind of resources or money,” he said.

Still, Nichols said the plan is not just “free money.” While any graduating high school senior can apply for the program, he said each student must work with a mentor to maintain successful academic standing in community colleges and complete a minimum of eight community service hours each semester.

Terry Stoops, director of education studies at the right-leaning John Locke Foundation in North Carolina, said while he

thinks Haslam had correctly identified the problem, his Tennessee Promise is not necessarily the best solution. He said it is unlikely that any similar policies will be proposed in North Carolina.

“I think the idea of utilizing community college to enhance the skills and knowledge of the workforce is a good plan, and I think North Carolina should think along those lines,” Stoops said. “But this specific plan is not for North Carolina.”

Stoops said even if North Carolina implemented a similar program, the state would not currently be able to fund it because of the rising cost of Medicaid and Gov. Pat McCrory’s plan to raise teacher salaries.

While Haslam proposed that the state’s lottery reserve fund pay for the Tennessee Promise through an endowment, Stoops expressed concern at the sustainability of this funding.

“The problem with lottery revenue is that it fluctuates so much,” Stoops said. “Because it’s such an unstable revenue source, it really isn’t a very good one to rely upon for a program, especially one that requires multiple years of implementation.”

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MFA students showcase art in exhibition series

By Rupali Srivastava
Staff Writer

The Master of Fine Arts program at UNC has attracted artists from all around the world, ranging from South Korea to Arkansas to New York City.

Now, in preparation for graduation in May, nine of these second-year student artists will showcase their work in their own weeklong exhibit in the John and June Allcott Gallery in Hanes Art Center. The series of nine exhibits, titled Aesthetic Conditions, began Monday and will end in mid-April.

Second-year MFA student Minjin Kang, who specializes in photography, said she was looking forward to the opportunity to exhibit her art, which she’s spent more than a year creating.

“I’ve traveled to probably at least 20 places in Chapel Hill and all over the state to take these pictures,” the South Korea native said. “So I’m excited for people to see them in the gallery.”

Kang said that while preparing her work and creating art at UNC, she has received a lot of helpful support from faculty.

What she likes most about the program here, she said, is her relationship with faculty and how encouraging and supportive they have been of her work.

Fellow MFA student and professional artist Michael Bramwell also said he found the faculty very helpful.



DTH/KATIE WILLIAMS

Lile Stephens’ MFA thesis exhibition “Operating Systems” is on display in Hanes Art Center until Friday.

“Many of them have galleries, and many of them show in the art world, so when they teach, they’re not just teaching from a theoretical perspective,” the New York native said. “They have practical experience that I can relate to, and that’s been very helpful.”

For some students, success in the program depends most upon self-discipline.

MFA student Lile Stephens of Arkansas said he appreciated how far faculty go to communicate with students.

“All of our faculty are very accessible, and a lot of the really good feedback comes from one-on-one interactions with them,” he said.

“But it’s really centered around being a self-disciplined artist.”

Stephens’s exhibit is the first of the series to be on display at the Allcott Gallery, and will remain there until Friday.

Stephens’s work utilizes older pieces of technology — which he said many call obsolete — and finds alter-

nate functions that will allow people to see them in new ways.

He creates art installations involving video and outdated electronics, and uses many resources provided by the University, such as studios, digital cameras, audio equipment and even a new laser cutter.

Bramwell, who teaches an art course at the undergraduate level like other second-year MFA students, said the University’s resources helped him to create work as well.

“I take full advantage of the design lab, the media resource center, things like that, to produce videos and photographs and all of other stuff I do,” he said.

His exhibit will emphasize the importance of language through visual art. Even after practicing as a professional artist for 21 years, Bramwell said he thought he might have more to formally learn about art and its history, which is why he returned to school to complete his MFA.

SEE THE SERIES

Time: Now through April 18

Location: Allcott Gallery, Hanes Art Center

Info: art.unc.edu

Stephens said he wants to be an art educator after graduating, and agreed that the program has allowed him to learn beyond just artistic skill.

“I think the combination of having artistic ability and having learned and practiced a direct conceptual approach to teaching will really prepare me for a competitive job market,” he said.

For now, however, Stephens said he was excited about the exhibit, and hoped people would be interested in seeing old technology work in unique ways.

“Hopefully, people will be interested and come out,” he said. “It’s a weird, crazy, techno universe in that space.”

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THE SACRILEG OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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Level: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☒ 3 ☐ 4

				2		1	
2		1			4		6
3				6			7
8	3			1			
			4	2	6		
			7			4	5
4			7				1
1		8			6		4
	2		9				

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

4	2	6	7	3	8	9	5	1
7	1	3	9	4	5	6	2	8
8	9	5	6	1	2	7	3	4
9	7	1	2	5	3	8	4	6
2	3	8	4	9	6	1	7	5
6	5	4	1	8	7	2	9	3
5	6	7	3	2	1	4	8	9
3	4	2	8	6	9	5	1	7
1	8	9	5	7	4	3	6	2

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

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ACROSS

1 Asian noodles
6 Quick looks
11 "The _"
14 Poke _ in
15 Game console button
16 _ polloi
17 "Sommersby" actress
19 1992 figure skating silver medalist
20 What "will be" will be?
21 Actress Dolores _ Rio
22 Post-blizzard creation
24 "The Federalist Papers" co-writer
27 Part of UNLV
28 Shortcut, perhaps
33 Kobe's home
36 Energy
37 Environmental sci.
38 Hosp. areas
39 Freaked out
43 Org. for analysts
44 Dickens clerk
46 _ Aviv
47 Plant circulatory tissue
49 Measure used by navigators
53 Some govt. lawyers
54 Kind of memory
58 Golfer and his buddy, say
62 Barbecue item
63 Never, in

Nuremberg
64 Trash holder
65 Packaged produce buy, and a literal description of the ends of 17-, 28-, 39- and 49-Across
68 Word before or after blue
69 Paris pupil
70 Picture
71 "Mr. _ Passes By": Milne play
72 A.J. Foyt, e.g.
73 Flies alone

DOWN

1 Hindi for "king"
2 Now, in Nicaragua
3 Surfing equipment
4 Ransom _ Olds
5 Locker room exchange
6 Opening words
7 Some RPI grads
8 Body shop figs.
9 Sharp

10 Easy pace
11 Playfully kooky
12 Minute amount
13 Utah national park
18 Crumbly cheese
23 Corduroy ridge
25 Biographer Tarbell
26 Extended short story
29 Singer/actress Peeples
30 Energize, with "up"
31 "Not a chance"
32 Character actor Jack
33 Doe in many films
34 Specialty
35 Lewis Carroll, for one
40 Non-Rx
41 Museum funding org.
42 Bookplate words

45 Educ. collaborators
48 As of now
50 Glucose, to fructose
51 Geese : gaggle : crows : _
52 Beatnik's "Gotcha"
55 "Barry Lyndon" actor
56 Musical nickname related to jewelry
57 Survey answers
58 Cook's meas.
59 Collaborative Web project
60 Kunis of "Black Swan"
61 Corporate VIP
66 Holiday starter
67 Rock genre