At NC State University, we are known for our position as the largest university in North Carolina with more than 33,000 students from every county in the state and more than 100 countries.

This year, more than 20,000 sought admission to a freshman class that seated about 4,600. The average cost of tuition and fees for in-state students is just $3,265 per semester making us one of the nation’s three “Best Values” in public higher education according to US News.

We are also recognized for the economic impact we have on the state. Our innovation and research have attracted more than $336 million in research funding during the past year and for every dollar we receive in state support, we return $8 in total income to North Carolina.

Our 170,000 living alumni are legendary for their pride and passion around the Wolfpack, and every year our graduates pump more than $5.6 billion into the North Carolina economy.

A Challenge from Chancellor Woodson:

Chancellor Randy Woodson has challenged us to reach higher in our efforts around teaching, research, extension and engagement and he wants NC State to strengthen its role in addressing the Grand Challenges of society involving Health, the Environment, Energy and Food.

While we benefit from state support, it is the public/private partnership that will help us reach our potential and play a role in resolving these issues. It is private dollars and a strong endowment that will help fund our aspirations and enable us to continue offering a high-quality and affordable education to students in North Carolina.

To support our fund raising efforts and better align NC State with practices across the country, the university will implement a 5% gift assessment effective October 1, 2010 on gifts to support current operations and facilities. In addition to the gift assessment, the university will also charge a fee of about 1% to the earnings of its various endowments.

Our Action Plan:

Our goal is to significantly increase the number of donors to NC State during the next 10 years and to increase gift income from about $90 million per year to more than $180 million per year. To do that we need to increase the number of fund raisers on campus and improve our information systems. The assessments will help make that possible.

A significant portion of new funds will also be dedicated to the university’s endowment. Increasing the value of this important funding source is vital to the long-term health of NC State. The average value of the endowments at our peer universities is about $1 billion, or more than $30,000 per student. At NC State, the value of our endowment is around $463 million, or $14,000 per student.

We will also pursue other sources of revenue to fund our aspirations, but many public universities with big aspirations and relatively small endowments use a gift assessment. For example, gift assessments at our peer institutions range from 2 percent to more than 8 percent.

The Outcome of Our Actions:

Increased funding made possible by private donations will enable us to enhance the student experience at NC State and provide focus on our research efforts as well as the priorities of our donors. Maximizing these efforts builds upon the generosity of our current supporters and creates the leverage necessary to generate new dollars that will help move NC State forward.

Endowment Per Student:

- Georgia Institute of Technology: $95,040
- University Wisconsin-Madison: $85,395
- University of Minnesota: $88,413
- Michigan State University: $55,517
- Purdue University: $41,955
- University of Illinois: $42,436
- University of Florida: $46,197
- Ohio State University: $42,054
- Iowa State University: $21,738
- University of California: $21,480
- University of Georgia: $20,667
- Penn State University: $18,973
- Virginia Tech: $17,948
- University of Maryland: $15,413
- NC State: $14,123