It is with great pleasure that we present the first ever NCACHE Annual Report. The vision for providing college access programming to our local communities in the NC Appalachian region began long before 2010. The NC Appalachian Collaborative for Higher Education, formerly the Western Network for Access and Success has been serving the region through a collaborative effort with UNC-Asheville, Western Carolina, and Appalachian State. Our new name only reflects a desire to be recognizable throughout the national Appalachian region. The same level of high quality programming is still in place, in fact, we are increasing our programming! Appalachia is catching up with the nation as a whole on many socioeconomic indicators – even surpassing the national averages in some areas – but the Region still lags in postsecondary education. Because at least some college or postsecondary training is now necessary to obtain jobs that pay a livable wage, it is critical that we close the college-going gap between Appalachia and the nation. In NC, public and private entities, in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission, have joined together to maximize local resources and reduce the barriers to educational attainment – a key component to economic development.

The U.S. Department of Education estimates the college-going rate of high school graduates nationwide at 63.3 percent; for Appalachia the rate is between 33 percent and 35 percent, according to Commission data.

Get involved -- please inform politicians about your community's funding priorities for the state budget. Visit http://www.ncga.state.nc.us to communicate with your county's Senate and House Representatives.

NCACHE is committed to building strategic partnerships to strengthen our local communities through college access and success.

Jennifer Wilson-Kearse  
Executive Director  
828.262.8016  ext. 104  
wilsonkearsejj@appstate.edu

Tracey Tardiff  
Pre-Enrollment Program Coordinator  
828.262.8016  ext.102  
tardiffta@appstate.edu

Mary Banks  
Program Support  
828.262.8016  
banksme@appstate.edu

May 2011 NCACHE News