

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007**

**S**

**1**

**SENATE BILL 2079**

Short Title: Eve Carson/Abhijit Mahato Comm. Service Prog. (Public)

---

Sponsors: Senator Rand.

---

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

---

May 28, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE EVE CARSON/ABHIJIT MAHATO COMMUNITY  
2 SERVICE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
3 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.  
4

5 Whereas, the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and  
6 the State's private colleges and universities seek to solve societal problems and to foster  
7 in their students a sense of the obligations and rewards of citizenship; and

8 Whereas, North Carolina seeks to enhance the educational experience offered  
9 to students in its institutions of higher learning and to extend the benefits of these great  
10 institutions to the people of the State; and

11 Whereas, volunteering links individuals from different walks of life for the  
12 good of society; and

13 Whereas, societies with high levels of volunteerism tend to have higher levels  
14 of economic growth and lower rates of crime, interracial conflict, and school  
15 absenteeism; and

16 Whereas, a program that unites college students with public school-aged  
17 students in a positive manner will help to serve those public school-aged students who  
18 are at risk of falling behind academically or socially and, therefore, more susceptible to  
19 negative influences; and

20 Whereas, a community service program requiring mentoring and tutoring of  
21 school-aged students will help to address issues related to an increase in the dropout rate  
22 among school-aged students, the proliferation of gang activity across the State, and  
23 other issues affecting the ability of school-aged students to succeed in the public school  
24 system and beyond; Now, therefore,  
25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

26 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 116-11 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

27 "(15) The Board of Governors shall establish a community service program  
28 for baccalaureate degree candidates enrolled in the University System.  
29 This program shall be known as the "Eve Carson/Abhijit Mahato

1           Community Service Program". Under this program, students shall  
2           provide mentoring and tutoring services for a minimum of 20 hours  
3           per semester to public school-aged children across the State through  
4           school programs, faith-based programs, or other service programs.

5           The purposes of this program are to (i) provide students the  
6           opportunity to contribute to the State's economic well-being while  
7           experiencing internal and external benefits, (ii) instill in students the  
8           importance of civic engagement through volunteerism, (iii) strengthen  
9           the relationship between the university, the student, and the  
10           community, (iv) provide school-aged children with teachers and role  
11           models who will encourage them to succeed in the public school  
12           system and inspire school-aged children to become productive citizens  
13           in society.

14           Participation in this program shall be a requirement for any  
15           baccalaureate degree awarded after January 1, 2012."

16           **SECTION 2.** G.S. 116-21.1(a) reads as rewritten:

17           "(a) Funds shall be appropriated each fiscal year in the Current Operations  
18 Appropriations Act to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for  
19 aid to institutions and shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of  
20 G.S. 116-19, 116-21, and ~~416-22~~.116.22 to institutions that require their students to  
21 participate in the Eve Carson/Abhijit Mahato Community Service Program, established  
22 pursuant to G.S. 116-11(15), as a requirement for any baccalaureate degree awarded  
23 after January 1, 2012."

24           **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
25 Department of Public Instruction the sum of two hundred thirty thousand dollars  
26 (\$230,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall be allotted to local school  
27 administrative units on a per unit basis and used to coordinate with the Eve Carson/  
28 Abhijit Mahato Community Service Program.

29           **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.