

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS RANKED BEST VALUE IN HIGHER EDUCATION**  
*UNC-Chapel Hill Ranks #1; Four Other N.C. Schools Named In Top 35*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today boasted top rankings for five North Carolina colleges and universities as possessing the best educational value as public secondary education institutions according to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill topped the list of 100 for the fourth consecutive year. Also included this year were N.C. State University (11), UNC-Asheville (23), Appalachian State University (30) and UNC-Wilmington (35). With five, North Carolina has more schools in the top 50 than any other state in the nation.

“The investments we have made in higher education are paying off,” Easley said. “Students in our state are getting a bargain: a better education for their tuition dollar. We must continue to guard against high dollar tuition hikes so all of our students can take advantage of ‘the nation’s best deal’ in higher education.”

Along with reasonable tuition rates, *Kiplinger's* noted that “high-caliber academics and generous financial aid are also keys to UNC's top ranking. Chapel Hill's ability to meet 100 percent of the shortfall for students with financial need sets the school apart from the pack.”

Kiplinger's ranked the nation's best values in public education using SAT/ACT requirements, student/faculty ratios and four- and six-year graduation rates to rate quality. Other factors considered include total in-state and out-of-state costs, cost after aid and debt after graduation to rate cost.

The article, “Best Values in Public Education,” is available online at:  
<http://www.kiplinger.com/magazine/archives/2003/11/colleges.html>.

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