

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

---

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: November 18, 2003

Contact: Samantha Slapnik  
Phone: 919/733-5612

---

**NORTH CAROLINA WINS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AWARD**

**RALEIGH** – The State of North Carolina today was named winner of the first Goldman Sachs Foundation Award for Excellence in International Education. Gov. Mike Easley used the opportunity to highlight the growing link between a world-class education and economic strength.

“We now live and work in a highly competitive, global marketplace,” said Easley. “In order for our students to succeed, they must have a deeper understanding of the world today. We are working to create a skilled workforce that is knowledgeable about the everchanging world in which they live. That workforce, coupled with a good business climate will allow us to recruit high quality industries to North Carolina.”

The \$25,000 award will be used to advance an initiative called *North Carolina in the World*. Coordinated by the Center for International Understanding, the initiative’s goal is to increase student skills and knowledge about the world. Easley has asked CIU to work with leaders from the state’s business and education communities to facilitate international education by helping prepare students to communicate, cooperate and compete in an increasingly interconnected marketplace.

“It is clear that North Carolina needs a workforce that is internationally literate,” said Easley, noting how many of the state’s jobs depend on global trade.

- North Carolina ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the country in dollar value of exports of all commodities.
- More than 1,100 international firms operate in North Carolina.
- N.C. ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in the percentage of workforce supported by U.S. subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies.
- North Carolina has six international trade offices throughout the world: Canada, Mexico, Germany, Korea, Japan and China.

“The Goldman Sachs Foundation Award honors excellent work by North Carolina schools, universities, colleges, nonprofits, the Legislature and the business community,” continued Easley. “We have a long way to go. We will use this award to focus on closing the international knowledge gap, a goal vital to the state’s economic well-being.”

(more)

---

Governor's Press Office  
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001  
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005  
FAX (919) 733-5166

Delegates from North Carolina, including Senior Education Advisor J.B. Buxton and Sen. Linda Garrou (Forsyth) were in Washington, D.C. to accept the award on behalf of the Governor today. Morley Safer, of *60 Minutes*, hosted the press conference to announce the award.

###