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| Short Title: | Eve Carson/Abhijit Mahato Comm. Service Prog.                    (Public) |
| Sponsors: | Senator Rand. |
| Referred to: | |

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

1    "(15)    The Board of Governors shall establish a community service program
2              for baccalaureate degree candidates enrolled in the University System.
3              This program shall be known as the "Eve Carson/Abhijit Mahato
4              Community Service Program". Under this program, students shall
5              provide mentoring and tutoring services for a minimum of 20 hours
6              per semester to public school-aged children across the State through
7              school programs, faith-based programs, or other service programs.
8                   The purposes of this program are to (i) provide students the
9              opportunity to contribute to the State's economic well-being while
10             experiencing internal and external benefits, (ii) instill in students the
11             importance of civic engagement through volunteerism, (iii) strengthen
12             the relationship between the university, the student, and the
13             community, (iv) provide school-aged children with teachers and role
14             models who will encourage them to succeed in the public school
15             system and inspire school-aged children to become productive citizens
16             in society.
17                  Participation in this program shall be a requirement for any
18             baccalaureate degree awarded after January 1, 2012."
19         **SECTION 2.**  G.S. 116-21.1(a) reads as rewritten:
20    "(a)    Funds shall be appropriated each fiscal year in the Current Operations
21    Appropriations Act to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for
22    aid to institutions and shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of
23    G.S. 116-19, 116-21, and 116-22.116.22 to institutions that require their students to
24    participate in the Eve Carson/Abhijit Mahato Community Service Program, established
25    pursuant to G.S. 116-11(15), as a requirement for any baccalaureate degree awarded
26    after January 1, 2012."
27         **SECTION 3.**    There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
28    Department of Public Instruction the sum of two hundred thirty thousand dollars
29    ($230,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.  These funds shall be allotted to local school
30    administrative units on a per unit basis and used to coordinate with the Eve Carson/
31    Abhijit Mahato Community Service Program.
32         **SECTION 4.**  This act is effective when it becomes law.