

Belmont Center Woes May Prompt Changes

The future of the North Carolina Center for Applied Technology in Belmont faces certain change as news of padded courses and outside activities of the president are released.

Rep. Debbie Clary of Cleveland County, co-chair of the House Appropriations Committee and close ally of Speaker Richard Morgan, has stated the \$1.4 million annual appropriations for the center operations will not continue.

The most recent revelation to hit the news organizations centered on President Jim Lemons' perceived conflict by teaching at UNC-Charlotte and Belmont Abbey. Lemons earned \$173,000

in addition to his \$105,000 annual salary, according to State Auditor Ralph Campbell.

Earlier this year, news organizations reported the center earned FTE credits by reporting use of classrooms with only one person, or by civic organizations. The response in the General Assembly has been widespread.

Shifts in the role and mission of the center could have implications for the Hosiery Technology Center which has capabilities for comparable services, along with Gaston Community College, observers in Raleigh are saying.