February 2, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are so excited about our SMASSS (Students Making Another Science Success Story) Program and hope that you will be equally excited. It is great to know that you are interested in it as an experience for your child. In case you are wondering why we are so excited and what the SMASSS program is all about, let me tell you a little about it.

It is a 3 year science and math enrichment program here at NCCU for 8th-10th graders. It consists of 3-week summer science and math camps and once a month Saturday Academies during the school year. We started this program three years ago, June 2006 (for rising 8th graders), with funding from the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation and the American Honda Foundation. The first group of students, who have been with us for the three years, are now in the last year of the program and are in the 10th grade in high school. These students have done and achieved so much as a result of our program. When they entered only 3% had ever participated in a science competition and that was primarily a science fair at their school. Now they are competing and winning in science competitions such as the National Science Decathlon and the National Science Bowl. We have had as many as 44% of our students compete in the Regional of the Science Decathlon in South Carolina and 18% went on to participate in the National Science Decathlon. We are proud that 9% of our students competed, for the first time in the Regional of the National Science Bowl, that was held here at NCCU in January. The students have had fun learning robotics, how to make and launch all types of rockets, how to design a space station, just to mention a few of their activities. Your children are really going to have fun learning science and math.

During the 3 week camp they will spend every morning of one week focusing on each of the following three areas: life sciences, physical sciences and math/computer sciences. We have an award winning team of teachers who have designed hands-on interactive, imaginative, activities to both challenge and stimulate the curiosity of your rising 8th grader. Afternoon activities will be filled with outdoor activities, sport and science competitions. Three o’clock and its time for pick up, but your daughters and sons will leave anxious to return the next day. The best part of this is, if your child is admitted to the program this summer, it continues through the school year with monthly Saturday activities. Are you ready for this? All of this, including lunch, and guess the cost? There is no cost. We have received another grant, from Burroughs Wellcome Fund to continue the support of this program. However, we are not here to babysit your child, he/she needs to be interested in the program and wants to have fun doing math and science.

To get this started, complete the entire attached application, including reference letters and parental letter of commitment. Slots are limited and you don’t want to miss out on this! This is the ONLY time we will be recruiting new students until 2012, as we do not take in new students every year, just once every three years, if funded. Applications will be reviewed by our selection committee and interviews held. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out no later than the end of April or beginning of May. We hope to see your child in our program.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. White, Ph.D.
Professor and Director
Students Making Another Science Success Story

APPLICATION FOR THE SMASSS Program at NCCU
Summer 2009 Cohort
(Summer Camp Dates: June 15 – July 3, 2009)

This part of the application MUST be completed by the parent or guardian. Please PRINT in ink.

Student ___________________________________________________________ Gender: □ Female □ Male

Last                First                Middle

Age _______________ Date of Birth _______________ Social Security Number ________________________________

Name(s) of Parent/Legal Guardian ________________________________________________________________

Home address ________________________________________________________________

(Street)

________________________________________ (City) __________________________ (Zip)

Parent e-mail address______________________________________________________________

Home Phone __________________ Work phone (m) ______________________ (f) ______________________

School presently attending _____________________________________________________________

Does the student currently receive special education services? _______ If so, what category? ________________

______________________________________________________________

Please return this application no later than March 16, 2009

Ms. Eva Marmon-Halm, Program Manager
Center for Science, Math and Technology Education
North Carolina Central University
Lee Biology Building, Room 305
1801 Fayetteville Street
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 530-7687 (office)
(919) 530-6210 (fax)
SMASSS Program
Application for Admission
Summer 2009
(Summer Camp Dates: June 15 – July 3, 2009)

Race/Ethnicity (check):
☐ African, Black
☐ Asian (Laos, Japan, China, Korea, et al.)
☐ Asian (India, et al.)
☐ European, Caucasian, White
☐ Indian, Alaskan Native
☐ Latino, Hispanic
☐ Middle Eastern
☐ Multi-Racial: ____________________________
☐ Pacific Islander, Hawaiian
☐ Other: _________________________________

Household Educational Level:
Parents or grandparents attended college ☐ Yes ☐ No (did not go to college)
If yes to above, did they graduate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

English Language Learner: ☐ Yes ☐ No (any student whose first language is not English)

Household Income:
☐ Less than $10,000
☐ $10,000 - $20,000
☐ $20,000-$30,000
☐ $30,000 - $40,000
☐ $40,000 - $50,000
☐ More than $50,000

Please list the number of children 18 or under living in the home __________.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Students applying for the SMASSS summer program should be interested in or open to learning about careers in the sciences and also interested in applying for admission to the Clement Early College High School (JDC-ECHS) at NCCU.

1. In order to be admitted to the SMASSS program, students must be a rising 8th grader and should hold a minimum academic average of 78. Submit copies of your achievement records, as applicable. (Grades, final report cards from 6th grade and the mid year report card from 7th grade are required. End-of-Grade/Course test results, etc.). See your counselor for these records.

2. Submit one letter of recommendation from a science, math, or AVID teacher using the attached academic recommendation form.

3. Read and sign the attached Letter of Parental Commitment.

4. Double check everything, then return this application and all documents no later than March 16, 2009 to:

Ms. Eva Marmon-Halm, Program Manager
Center for Science, Math and Technology Education
NCCU
Lee Biology Building, Room 305
1801 Fayetteville Street
5. Students will be contacted for interviews if deemed necessary by the SMASSS staff.

Please explain why are you interested in participating in the SMASSS Program?

The summer program will have a math/science/technology focus. Please explain your interest in any one or both of these focus areas.

What other information would you like to share with us? One additional page may be attached for this purpose.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: By submitting this application you understand the commitment of effort and time your student is undertaking if accepted into SMASSS. Also, understand that SMASSS is a 3 year continuous program which includes summer camps and school year Saturday Academies [summer 2009 - school year 2011-2012]. This commitment includes daily attendance for the three week summer camps as well as the Saturday Academies and providing daily transportation. Any attendance or behavior problems will be sufficient cause to rescind any admission to the program that may be granted.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Student Signature __________________________ Date __________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian’s PRINTED NAME [Circle mother / father / guardian / other: __________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian’s Signature __________________________ Date __________
SMASSS Program - Checklist
2009 Application for Admission

Please ✓ all items completed and included in the application package:

___ Application
___ Academic Records (submit copy of report cards final 7th grade and midyear 8th grade)
___ End-of-Grade/Course tests (If you were not enrolled in Durham Public Schools last year, standardized achievement score results for the last two years may be used to meet these criteria.)
___ Letter of recommendation (from a math, science, or AVID teacher).
___ Signed Letter of Parental Commitment
___ Parent/Guardian Signature

*** Do not submit this document with application. This document is intended to help applicants ensure that each application packet is complete.
SMASSS Summer Program

Academic Recommendation

To the applicant: Please complete the top section of this form and give this form to one of your current academic subject (math, science, or AVID) classroom teachers.

Student’s Name_________________   Last   First   Middle

Student’s Address_______________________________________________________   Street   City and Zip Code

Student’s Current School____________________________________________________

How long have you known the applicant? ______

In which grade and subject did you teach this applicant? ________________

To the Recommender: The student named above is applying for admission to the SMASSS summer program at NCCU. Please use this form to share with us your perceptions of how this student will meet the academic and social responsibilities of this program. Please return this form to the student in a sealed envelop. Thank you for your assistance.

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<th>Needs Improvement</th>
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Comments:

Name of Reference:_________________________________________   Title:________________________

Department/Organization_______________________________________   Phone:____________________

Signature:____________________________________________________   Date:____________________
SMASSS Program
Letter of Parental Commitment

I _________________________________ (parent’s name) do hereby acknowledge & affirm my support for my child’s ________________________________ (child’s name) application for the SMASSS Program at North Carolina Central University. I am aware that SMASSS includes a three week summer instructional program aimed at exposing students to enhanced science and math instruction as well as school year monthly Saturday Academies. I understand and commit to the following:

1) Ensuring that my child will attend SMASS each day of the summer program and any and all subsequent activities during the academic year;

2) That I will provide my child(ren) with transportation to and from North Carolina Central University each day of the summer program and for any and all subsequent SMASSS activities during the academic year;

3) That attendance and behavioral problems can be cause for permanent dismissal from the program.

Parent Signature ____________________________________________

Parent Name (Please Print) ____________________________________

Parent E-mail ________________________________________________