# NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY EVALUATION

A Dissertation

by

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Submitted to the Graduate School

Appalachian State University

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DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

August 2008
Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership
Reich College of Education

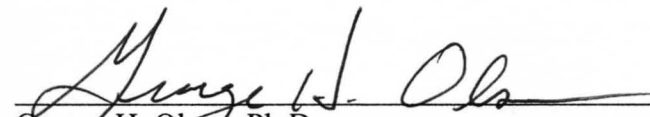# NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY EVALUATION
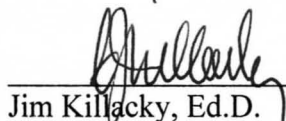
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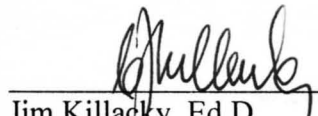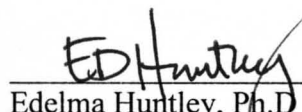
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# ABSTRACT

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY EVALUATION (August 2008)

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Because no evaluation has been conducted in the 10 years since the Virtual Learning
Community (VLC) program was developed and implemented in 1999, the purpose of the
present study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the VLC program and the extent to which it
met goals and objectives stated in the strategic plan developed for the distance education
community of the North Carolina Community College System.

The program evaluation resulted in findings that indicate the strengths and
weaknesses of the program. Overall, funding has steadily increased to support the operation
of the VLC. Several upgrades of hardware and software have been conducted to keep pace
with advances in technology and to support the distance learning needs of the 58 colleges in
the NCCCS. Over 250 courses have been developed, edited, and converted and are housed in
the VLC course repository. However, some administrators and educators have expressed
frustration with use of the VLC Modulate Template and training and support for use of the
Blackboard system. On average, those who use courses in the VLC library make significant
modification to course content and design.

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A stratified random sampling of 16 courses from the VLC course library was evaluated by a panel of experts using the *Quality Matters* rubric for assessing the extent that online courses meets standards of quality. From the 16 courses evaluated, only one course passed all standard requirements. This indicated that efforts must be taken to assure the quality of the content of the courses developed and used by college in the NCCCS.