

## Local Representative Highlights Budget

Written by  
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Local Representative Cullie Tarleton was pleased with this year's budget.

A statement was released from Tarleton's office earlier today highlighting the budget's impact on the High Country. A \$34 million College of Education building for Appalachian State University was approved in the budget to allow the university to expand its teacher training.

Also in Watauga County,

*Horn in the West*

will receive \$25,000 this year for operations.

Meanwhile, in Ashe County, \$708,000 has been allotted for a new State Division of Forestry Services headquarters. Ashe County is the state's number one Christmas tree producing county, and the headquarters will improve operations of the service, and provide storage space for fire fighting equipment. According to Tarleton, he began pushing the project prior to last year's election, and is pleased to see it come to fruition.

Also on the budget: a 5% salary increase for classroom teachers, and a 4% increase for state employ

Governor Mike Easley signed the budget in a ceremony this morning.