

# Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

April 2011



Steve Parrott

## A Message From Our President

While we still have work to do to ensure every student receives a quality education in Wake County, there are many innovative programs throughout the district producing favorable results. I recently found one such initiative is at A.B. Combs Elementary School in west Raleigh.

This is certainly a place where students are learning practical, principle-based leadership skills, achieving academic success and increasing self-confidence.

On April 5, I was invited to join a group of education and business leaders at a forum presented by A.B. Combs and The Friday Institute entitled "Children Having Their Say". It was an opportunity for the adults to hear from our young students about their concerns and recommendations for improving classroom instruction and school cultures.

Arriving at the event, I was greeted by several 4th and 5th grade students who introduced themselves, asked me about my work at Wake Ed Partnership and what I enjoyed most about public education. The conversation was very engaging.

The Gator Chorus opened the forum singing "We are the Children of the 21st Century." The song is a testament to the

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Welcome! We hope you find the information and links in this publication helpful. To find out more about us:

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## Meet Our Investors

- [Time Warner Cable](#)
- [News & Observer](#)

diversity of ethnicity, knowledge, cultures, languages and personalities that define today's students.

A.B. Combs Principal Muriel Summers served as a moderator for a panel made up of twelve 4th and 5th graders. Without coaching from their administrators and teachers, these young people "wowed" us with their understanding of Stephen R. Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, their maturity, their communications skills and their passion for learning and working with others. I took two pages of notes on classroom innovation, synergy, learning environments, the need for global knowledge, effective teaching methods, etc.!!

The kids even expressed concern about having money for college, teacher training, education budget challenges, assessment of academic performance, teacher/student collaboration and how to help struggling classmates. After an opportunity for Q&A with the audience and panelists, we adjourned.

The kids thanked us for taking time out of our busy schedule to participate, but the truth is I was honored to be invited to a forum where students could showcase their educational experience. I was heartened to find such "best practices" at work. My thanks to Ms. Summers, her hard-working faculty, supportive parents and, most of all, the students of A.B. Combs for such an enlightening experience.



### Teacher Leadership Grants

Apply now for a Teacher Leadership Grant!



**Time Warner Cable** has been an investor with the Partnership since 1995 and a Cornerstone Investor since 1998. They exemplify a strong commitment to strengthen the communities where they operate through their financial and in-kind investments.

The Partnership receives excellent video production annually as a part of the company's in-kind contribution as well as a Cornerstone Investor level of financial support.

**Time Warner's** goal is to inspire young people to build the skills needed - in science, technology, engineering and math - to become the problem solvers of tomorrow. We are honored to be their partner in this endeavor.

The Partnership also benefits from the strong leadership of **Director Melissa Buscher** on our board. Kudos to **Time Warner Cable!**



Supporting the Partnership since 1995, **The News & Observer** became a Cornerstone Investor in 1998 and has invested at that level through financial and in-kind support ever since.

Through their Cornerstone Investment, **The News & Observer** enables the Partnership to have print media exposure and expand our reach throughout Wake County and beyond. The Partnership is honored to be a long-time partner with the **News & Observer** and we thank them for their belief in our work and their investment with us.

In addition to their financial investment, the **N&O** provides strong guidance and

Teacher Leadership Grants are designed to promote effective teaching and improve student achievement through professional learning communities and instructional innovation.

The Partnership is proud to offer two types of grants for the 2011-2012 school year.

Professional Learning Community Grants

- Up to \$2,500 for a grade level or subject area team
- Up to \$5,000 for school-wide teams

Innovative Instruction Grants

- Up to \$1,000 for an individual teacher
- Up to \$2,500 for a grade level or subject area team

Attend a grant workshop on May 2, 2011 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. -- dinner provided! (Email [jcrain@wakeedpartnership.org](mailto:jcrain@wakeedpartnership.org) to register.)

You can support teachers with an investment in this program. For more information, email [Julie Crain](mailto:Julie.Crain) or contact her at 821.7609.

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***In Context***

An independent review of school issues for business leaders, elected officials and the education community in Wake County.

*Provided free by Wake Education Partnership*

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leadership through **Trustee Orage Quarles, III**. Thank you, **N&O!**

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**Chamber of Commerce Education Committee News**

The Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce Education Council is promoting [Teen Day Fuquay](#). This free event will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 11:00 - 4:00 at the Fuquay-Varina Community Center. Come learn about the dangers of drinking and distracted driving by using high tech simulation.

The Apex Chamber of Commerce Education Committee is promoting their Bookbag Bonanza. This program supplies bookbags full of school supplies for students in need in the Apex Community. To learn more about this program, please call Sue Mooney at the Apex Chamber at 919-362-6456 or [sue@apexchamber.com](mailto:sue@apexchamber.com).

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**Our Cornerstone Investors**

The following have invested in the work of the Partnership at \$10,000 and above. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them and want you to know who they are.

- AT&T
- Bank of America
- BB&T
- Capitol Broadcasting Company
- Elinvar
- Ethicon
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Golden Corral
- Goodnight Educational Foundation
- Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

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## Upcoming Events

### **Special Education Parent Advisory Committee**

April 19, 2011: 11:30 a.m.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup> in Room #1401 of the Crossroads II building in Cary from 11:30 am-1:30 pm.

Crossroads II is located at 110 Corning Road.

### **Economically Disadvantaged Student Performance Task Force**

May 5, 2011 - 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The Economically Disadvantaged Student Performance Task Force will meet on Thursday, May 5 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Fox Road Elementary School

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## Investing in Education is the Building Block to Success

As a 501(c)3 non-profit, Wake Education Partnership has been serving as a non-partisan, independent advocate and resource for public education reform in Wake County since 1983. Our work is made possible solely from the financial support of corporations, small businesses and individuals in our community. Please consider joining those who support our "world-class initiative" to provide a globally competitive education for all students in Wake County. Working together, we can create a public school system that graduates students who are well prepared to enter the workplace or to pursue their college education!

Invest in our work

IBM  
Lifetouch  
News & Observer  
Progress Energy  
RBC Bank  
Rex Healthcare  
Rotary Club of the Capital City  
SAS  
SunTrust Bank  
Time Warner Cable  
Triangle Community Foundation  
Wachovia

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## In Their Words: Why The Partnership Matters

The Partnership is pleased to add a new feature to its web site this month that provides visitors a chance to read what others have to say about our work.

We will highlight some of those comments in this space each month, but we also encourage you to [visit our site](#) to see what others have to say and learn more about our work with Wake County's schools.

*"A strong public school system has always been a strength for our region in attracting new business investment and jobs to our community. We must stay highly competitive in this area, and the Wake Education Partnership is a great way to leverage our investment! I cannot think of a higher priority for our firm's investment in the community!"*

**G. Gray Reed, Regional President  
Triangle Region, BB&T**

## Wake Regional Education Roundtable Series

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On May 18, the Apex Chamber of Commerce will host a Wake Regional Education Roundtable discussion on accreditation. Registration for this event will be through the Apex Chamber of Commerce.

The Education Roundtable Series includes regular lunch discussions held with area Chambers of Commerce and businesses.

The topics are chosen by the host organization, and represent issues the Partnership believes are important when it comes to providing excellent public schools for all students.

Chamber members, parents, business employees, educators, community representatives and elected officials are encouraged to attend. Meetings are generally held from noon to 1:30 p.m. and include lunch.

Please contact [Julie Crain](#) at 919.821.7609 Ext. 129 for more information.



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Please contact our [staff](#) at 821.7609 if you have any questions about our work or if you wish to find out how you can invest in public education through the Partnership.

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