

Happy Holidays



Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

December, 2010



A Message From Our President

Welcome to the monthly newsletter of Wake Education Partnership. I learned early in my professional career that "perception is reality" for most people.

This is certainly true when it comes to the mission and core values of the Partnership and our ongoing work with key educational leaders, elected officials, the business community and the general public to improve the quality of public education throughout Wake County. I find it of critical importance for the Partnership to communicate what we stand "for" rather than what we stand "against" when it comes to educational reform.

It is also important that our audience clearly understand our link to business and our work with individual investors who wish to financially support our education research and reform efforts.

During the brief time I've served as President of the Partnership, my staff and I have made a concerted effort to clearly identify our mission. We are a non-partisan, independent, non-profit organization that engages leaders who have the ability to improve our schools. We research and advocate for

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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](#)

ETHICON, INC.

a *Johnson & Johnson* company

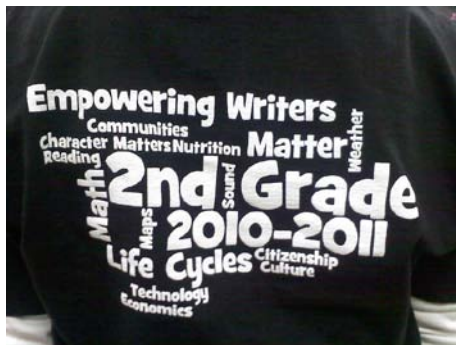
higher student achievement standards through our world-class education initiative. And we collaborate with the non-profit community to deliver the resources necessary for systemic change.

We are currently performing an inventory of all non-profits that focus on public education in Wake County. Our goal is to identify partners who can work together to help the community create a world-class educational system. Non-profits need not compete with one another for the same end goal, but rather we should serve as complements to enhance the delivered results for each of our organizations.

When gaps appear in the resources needed, the Partnership will assemble leaders who can identify the "best practice" approach that will deliver the desired educational result.

Simply put, the Partnership wants to be recognized as an effective collaborator with all of the available resources needed to deliver a world-class learning experience.

At the end of the day, we will all be measured on how effective we were in graduating our students with the skills **demand**ed by employers and **requir**ed by colleges and universities for further academic development.



Teacher Leadership Grants

As a Cornerstone Investor since 2005, Ethicon has doubled their giving in the past five years. They are strong supporters of the Partnership's Teacher Leadership Grants program and are hosting a Lunch and Learn in January at their workplace for the Ethicon Executive Team.

Ethicon started as a surgical suture company and has since grown in response to the needs of health care workers who must safely and effectively meet the needs to patients.

We salute Ethicon and thank them for their commitment to the Partnership's work to ensure every child in Wake County has an excellent public school to attend. To get to know the work of Ethicon better, please visit them at www.ethicon.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
- Ethicon
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Golden Corral
- Goodnight Educational Foundation
- Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
- 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

On December 2, grant recipient Christi Vereckey and the 2nd grade team at Olive Chapel Elementary hosted over 300 students and parents at a Poetry Cafe. Students shared original poetry with family and friends. The event is part of the Empowering Young Writers grant Ms. Vereckey was awarded by Wake Education Partnership. Second grade teachers are working in a professional learning team to develop a balanced writing program for all students.

[Teacher Leadership Grants](#) are designed to promote effective teaching and improve student achievement through professional learning communities and teacher leadership.

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

In Context

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

Provided free by Wake Education Partnership

[Read](#) / [Subscribe](#)

Upcoming Events

Financial Aid Workshops

Wake County Public School System is hosting [a series of financial aid workshops](#) with the College Foundation of North Carolina. All workshops begin at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 7 - Sanderson High
Jan. 5 - Panther Creek High
Jan. 11 - Knightdale High

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

"Lunch and Learn" Education Series



Wake Education Partnership spoke with employees at SAS on Nov. 18 about what it means to create a school system built on world-class education standards.

The presentation was one of several sessions the company offered to employees

Jan. 20 - Cary High

Holiday Schedule - School Closings

Wake County Public Schools will be closed for the holiday on the following dates:

[Traditional Calendar: Dec. 22 - Jan. 3](#)
[Year-Round Calendar: Dec. 22 - Jan. 2](#)

Board of Education Meeting

[January 4 - Work Session and Meeting](#)

Jim Brown of RBC Bank named to Partnership Board

Jim Brown, Managing Director of RBC Bank's Public & Institutional Banking Group, was selected in November to serve on Wake Education Partnership's Board of Directors.

Brown has worked in the banking industry 37 years and at RBC Bank for 33 years. He works on financing and investment strategies for public sector clients throughout the Southeast.

The Partnership's Board of Directors has [42 members](#). The directors oversee and approve policy decisions carried out by the Partnership staff. They also approve the selection of new board members for three-year terms.

as part of American Education Week.

After a brief description of how others define world-class standards, the employees broke into small groups to define the traits they believed a school system must have to graduate students ready to compete in the global economy. The foundation of the research presented by the Partnership is contained in a report it released last year titled [Suspending Disbelief](#).

The Partnership would like to thank SAS for the opportunity to discuss the topic with their employees. We are happy to make similar presentations or discuss other education topics with all area companies through our "lunch and learn" education series. Please contact [Julie Crain](#) at 919.821.7609 Ext 129 for more information.



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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