

# Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

February 2011



## A Message From Our President

The past month has certainly been an exciting one for Wake Education Partnership and me personally. I've enjoyed the opportunity to participate in two Executive Series breakfast meetings with area business executives to discuss public education issues. I accepted an invitation to speak to the Leadership Raleigh participants (Greater Raleigh Chamber program) on Feb. 8 about the work of the Partnership and how to engage the business community in support of public education. As part of Leadership Raleigh "Education Day", I also toured Mary E. Phillips High School and heard from their principal and staff about the exciting work taking place at this alternative school. Also, I attended the Partners' Breakfast on Feb. 22 hosted by the Holly Springs Chamber and shared "Who We Are and What We Do" at the Partnership.

Tim Simmons, the Partnership's vice president of communications, and I were invited to the swearing in of our new Superintendent Tony Tata on Feb. 1. The Partnership has spent "quality" time with Mr. Tata in recent weeks talking about the ways we can work together strategically to improve our schools and develop effective teachers and school leaders. We certainly share Superintendent Tata's focus on student achievement and providing adequate resources for our teachers.

On Feb. 11, the Partnership and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce held a press conference to publicly unveil a

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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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## Partnership Begins Executive Breakfast Series



proposed student assignment plan. The [Wake School Choice](#) plan is built upon a foundation of stability, proximity, choice and student achievement. It was provided in response to the Board of Education's request for input. On Feb. 15, the School Board unanimously decided to abolish its ad hoc Student Assignment Committee and refer the proposed plan to Superintendent Tata and his staff for further review.

We are hopeful the proposed plan will provide a good foundation for further discussion within the Wake community on student assignment and will serve as useful input to the WCPSS leadership as they develop a recommended plan for school year 2012-13 and beyond.

Media coverage of the proposal can be found [here](#). Additional updates will be posted in future newsletter editions as warranted. Information about the proposal, including a full copy of the plan, can be found at [www.wakeschoolchoice.com](http://www.wakeschoolchoice.com).

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### Teacher Leadership Grants

At Swift Creek Elementary, teachers are able to meet for half a day in their Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) thanks to their *Making Data Work* grant. Grant funds are used to provide substitute pay so that teachers can meet for an extended period of time.

During this time, teachers examine assessment data, plan student intervention and enrichment, discuss best practices, and dig into C-Mapp. C-Mapp is an online database that provides learning and teaching guides for every subject and grade level. They also work to vertically align their curriculum. This means they work to make sure students are learning concepts required to be successful at the next grade level.

Wake Education Partnership has launched a new program to help us better understand and represent business perspectives on public education. Called the Executive Breakfast Series, the program offers local business leaders an opportunity to ask questions and offer thoughts on school issues.

A very special thank you to Director **Patti Gillenwater** for hosting the first two Executive Breakfasts at Elinvar. Top level executives gathered for coffee and a light breakfast to let us know what is on their minds regarding public education in Wake County. Participants were also given a brief update on the Partnership.

Representatives from **Baker Roofing, Biogen Idec, Highwoods, Lexis Nexis, Railinc, Red Hat, Stock Building Supply and Vann and Sheridan Attorneys** participated in the first Executive Breakfast Series events, which included a welcome from Partnership Trustee Chair **Roddy Jones**.

The Partnership urges you to consider hosting an Executive Breakfast at your place of work. Our goal is to have one breakfast each month and to vary the locations throughout Wake County.

Invite five or six of your peers to meet at your office for coffee and conversation. It is the involvement of the business community builds and sustains world-class public schools. Please be a part of this new initiative!

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[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.

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### ***In Context***

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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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### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Magnet and Calendar Choice Application Period Now Open**

The application period for WCPSS calendar and magnet schools opened on February 21 and will continue through March 7, 2011. Applications will only be accepted online. Learn more on [this WCPSS website](#).

#### **Board of Education Retreat**

The WCPSS Board of Education will hold a two-day retreat beginning Friday, Feb. 25 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Apex Town Hall and concluding Saturday from 9 am to noon at the school district offices, 3600 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh.

#### **Wendell Elementary 5K Run/Walk**

On March 19, Wendell Elementary will host the 2011 Run for the Pig 5K Run/Walk. The race is a benefit for Wendell Elementary Creative Arts and

### **2011 Pieces of Gold**

Now in its 28th year, Pieces of Gold, an annual arts extravaganza, showcases the spectacular talent and creative expression of the Wake County Public School System students.

On **Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium**, more than 900 students throughout Wake County will come together as performers, visual artists and volunteers to present 2011 Pieces of Gold.

Special guests include Superintendent and Mrs. Tata, the Board of Education and members of the Executive Team at Rex Healthcare. Special thanks to **Rex Healthcare as Presenting Sponsor of 2011 Pieces of Gold.**

You are invited to join the Wake County Public School System and Wake Education Partnership at the 2011 Pieces of Gold performance.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$60 and are available at the Box Office at Memorial Auditorium or via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

Get your tickets now as they are selling fast. Thank you for your support of 2011 Pieces of Gold and our talented students and teachers - it promises to be an unforgettable evening!

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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

Science Magnet Elementary School. Learn more about the event and register [here](#).

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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

- BB&T
- Capitol Broadcasting Company
- Elinvar
- 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

## Wake Regional Education Roundtable Series

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On March 9, the Cary and Morrisville Chambers of Commerce will host a Wake Regional Education Roundtable discussion. Registration will open soon, and can be information can be found [here](#).

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

Special thanks to the Fuquay-Varina Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Feb. 16 Roundtable where participants discussed details of the [student assignment proposal](#) offered several days earlier by the Partnership and Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.

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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