

Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

March 2011



Steve Parrott

A Message From Our President

The past month has been extremely busy. I continue to meet with leaders in the business community and major employers who have invested or desire to invest in public education initiatives in Wake County through the work of Wake Education Partnership. We have formed a CFO Advisory Council (made up of six outstanding business executives) who met with Superintendent Tony Tata on March 15. The Council is available to provide consultation and feedback from a business perspective on fiscal matters affecting our school system.

The Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and the Partnership continue to meet with community leaders to discuss the parental outreach that will be critically important if a school "choice" plan is adopted by the school system. Our meeting on March 8 brought 20 leaders from the Hispanic community together to explore more effective ways to engage parents in making school choices. Other meetings included representatives from the faith-based community and leaders from the Boys and Girls Clubs, Wake Communities in Schools and the Triangle YMCA.

On March 17, I participated in the quarterly Superintendent's Summit Meeting which included teachers, principals, central services staff and parents representing a cross-section of the school district. In

IN THIS ISSUE

- [President's Column](#)
- [Teacher Leadership Grants](#)
- [Subscribe to Our Education News Summaries](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Invest in Public Education Through the Partnership](#)
- [Learn More About Us](#)
- [Meet our Investors](#)
- [Pieces of Gold/ Gifts of Gold Congratulations!](#)
- [Our Cornerstone Investors](#)
- [Next Roundtable: Holly Springs Chamber on April 7](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

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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**
 - **Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce**



- **Golden Corral**
- The Greater Raleigh Chamber of

addition to hearing from Superintendent Tata on his 90-day plan and an overview of the district's vision, mission and core beliefs, we had an opportunity to brainstorm in the areas of communications, community engagement, classroom instruction and student assignment.

On March 18, Superintendent Tata addressed a joint meeting of the Partnership's Boards of Directors and Trustees at the RBC Center. He shared the school system's new vision, mission and core beliefs and outlined his priorities and recent actions to improve student achievement through effective and innovative classroom instruction.

He also provided an overview of his budget proposal and the need to protect and reward our most effective teachers. He then discussed the recent letter/report from AdvancED placing our high schools accreditation in "warned" status. He assured the group that the seven required actions necessary to remove this status are already being addressed by him, his staff and the school board members. Much of the required action was already included in Mr. Tata's 90-day plan of entry and implementation strategy developed in early January.

I am thankful to be leading Wake Education Partnership and joining others who are working so hard to provide world-class schools for our children in Wake County.



Teacher Leadership Grants

At Yates Mill Elementary, a teacher leadership grant provides funding for monthly release time so that teachers can plan differentiated instruction. Differentiated instruction provides provides varied learning opportunities that challenge students at appropriate levels.

Commerce has been an investor with Wake Education Partnership since 1995 and a Cornerstone Investor since 1998. The Partnership's work throughout Wake County is enhanced by our relationships with the 12 chambers and we greatly appreciate the Greater Raleigh Chamber's strong commitment to our mission of promoting the economic health of Wake County through excellence in public education. Our most recent joint effort with the Raleigh Chamber is the work on the student assignment proposal. Key staff and volunteers from the Chamber and the Partnership put in countless hours to bring the proposal to fruition.

The Partnership also benefits from the strong leadership of **Trustee Harvey Schmitt** on our Board. Kudos to the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce!



Supporting the Partnership since 1995 at the Cornerstone level, Golden Corral is well-known for its support of public education and literacy in the Wake County community. They are strategic and focused in their giving back to the community because they believe strongly in seeing impact. The Partnership is honored to be a long-time partner with Golden Corral and we thank them for their belief in our work and their investment with us.

In addition to their financial investment, Golden Corral provides strong guidance and leadership to the Partnership through **Trustee James Maynard** and **Director Richard Urquhart**. Thank you, Golden Corral!

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When they meet, teachers collaborate to generate SMART goals, analyze student data, consult resource material, and plan differentiated instruction.

[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](#)

[Leadership Raleigh Information Session](#)
March 31, 2011: 7:00 p.m.

The Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce is hosting an information session about Leadership Raleigh, a premier leadership development program where you'll cultivate your community spirit and develop your leadership skills.

["Virtual Town Hall" series begins with Wake school superintendent](#)
April 1, 2011: 10 a.m.

School Superintendent Tony Tata will hold his first "virtual town hall" meeting this week via the school system's web site. Scheduled to be a monthly event, the town hall sessions will



[2011 Pieces of Gold](#)

Congratulations to the more than 900 students involved in the 2011 *Pieces of Gold* and *Gifts of Gold* arts extravaganza held at Memorial Auditorium.

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

The *Gifts of Gold* art show attracted more than 90 participants this year. Please visit a slide of the winners [featured here](#).

Special guests at this year's event included 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.**

Thanks to all who supported and participated in this year's event.



Gifts of Gold Best In Show:
Sohyun Lee, Apex HS

allow participants to submit questions for an interactive chat session beginning at 9:45 a.m. A moderator will screen the questions before they are answered to protect student privacy and ensure comments are appropriate. Transcripts will be posted.

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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

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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
- 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

On April 7, the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce will host a Wake Regional Education Roundtable discussion on accreditation. You can register for the event and find additional information [here](#).

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

Special thanks to the Cary and Morrisville Chambers of Commerce for hosting the March 9 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.



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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Wake Education Partnership | 706 Hillsborough St, Suite A | Raleigh | NC | 27603