

# Wake Education Partnership

Monthly Newsletter

May 2011



Steve Parrott

## A Message From Our President

Welcome to the May edition of Wake Education Partnership's monthly newsletter. I want to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to those businesses and individuals who provide financial and volunteer support for our mission to deliver a world-class educational experience to all students in Wake County. The Partnership is not a membership-based non-profit, therefore, we do not receive recurring revenues and must rely solely on our investors and educational grants to support our programs.

In January of this year, we began a new program at the Partnership entitled "Executive Breakfast Series." The purpose of these informal breakfast meetings is to bring together business executives in small groups across the county to discuss public education issues and to explore effective ways to work collaboratively in improving our education system. The meetings also provide a wonderful opportunity for Fran Carruthers, VP-Development and myself to provide an overview of "who we are" and "what we do" at the Partnership. The breakfasts are hosted by a business executive and usually include 6 to 8 other business executives. Our most recent breakfast meeting on May 12 was hosted by Don Stroud of Hartsfield and Nash Insurance Agency in Wake Forest. It was evident

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

- [Visit our web site](#)
- [Join our mailing list](#)
- [Invest in our work](#)
- [View our profile on LinkedIn](#)

- .....
- ### Meet Our Investors
- [Progress Energy](#)
  - [SAS](#)

from this meeting that our business leaders and parents continue to aspire for educational greatness in Wake County, genuinely care for our students and are willing to partner with Superintendent Tony Tata and the school system in furthering our national reputation as a leading public education provider.

The Partnership is also benefiting from our formation of a Public Education Advisory Council in March of this year. This council is made up primarily of Wake County Principals of the Year, Assistant Principals of the Year and Teachers of the Year in from the past 5 years. Its purpose is to increase the business community's knowledge of the school district's instructional challenges and opportunities and to identify "best practices" in classroom instruction. The council is also assisting the Partnership in prioritizing areas for "value-added" improvement and targeting our energy and resources to better support public education in Wake County. I applaud these educators for their tireless efforts to educate our children and for their willingness to volunteer additional time to provide "front-line" counsel to the Partnership's mission and strategic planning process.

As discussions continue this month regarding school budgets, redistricting and student assignment, I urge each of us to keep an "open mind", respect diverse opinions, put aside political biases and seek genuine compromise and solutions in support of our students and our educators.



### Teacher Leadership Grants

Apply now for a Teacher Leadership Grant!



Seventeen years of investment as a Cornerstone Investor. That's what Progress Energy's strong support of the Partnership looks like. Supporting public education initiatives in Wake County is one of the main ways that Progress Energy makes our community a stronger and more desirable place to live and work. We are grateful that they choose to partner with the Partnership in support of our ongoing work for the highest quality and highest standards for our public schools and students.

Supporting the Partnership through their corporate foundation is wonderful indeed, but Progress Energy goes the extra mile. Each year, we also receive significant funding from employees at Progress Energy through their workplace giving program. We thank these individuals for their personal support!

In addition to their strong financial support, Progress Energy lends leadership to the Partnership through **Trustee Hilda Pinnix-Ragland** and **Director Marty Clayton**. Many, many thanks to Progress Energy for all the ways they support the work and mission of Wake Education Partnership.



For 17 consecutive years, SAS has been investing with the Partnership at the Cornerstone Investor level. We are honored to be one of the organizations that SAS has continued to fund through the years as education priorities and issues have shifted.

SAS's support of Wake Education Partnership goes far beyond financial. In-

**Deadline: Friday, May 13, 2011!**

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

More than 45 teachers attended grant workshops on April 6 and May 2, 2011.

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.

**[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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kind support has been provided, meeting space has been made available, Lunch and Learns have been held for SAS employees with Partnership staff and outstanding leadership on the Partnership's Boards of Trustees and Directors has been on-going. Currently, , **Caroline McCullen, Director of SAS Education Initiatives** , will continue serving on the WEP Board of Directors and will also be chairing the Partnership's Program Committee next fiscal year. Many, many thanks to SAS for their support of not only Wake Education Partnership, but also of education in its many forms.

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**[Chamber of Commerce Education Committee News](#)**

On Thursday, May 19, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce will host an Education Forum on the topic *Innovation in Education: What role is there for the Business Community?* For registration and more information, click [here](#).

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).

On Monday, May 9 the Cary Chamber's Honor a Teacher Program recognized at least one teacher from every school in the Western Wake area. Over 130 teachers were honored and celebrated at Koka Booth Amphitheatre!

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## Upcoming Events

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

May 17, 2011: 11:30 a.m.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee will have its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> in Room #1331 of the Crossroads II building in Cary from 11:30 am-1:30 pm.

Crossroads II is located at 110 Corning Road.

### **End of the Year = Test Time**

The end of the school year is around the corner for many, and that means test time is here. Every school sets its own test dates, but they all fall within a range of dates set by the district and the NC Department of Public Instruction. A list of testing calendars for Wake County Public Schools can be found [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!

## 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

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## In Their Words: Why The Partnership Matters

The Partnership has added a new feature to its home page 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.

*"Through our involvement with Wake Education Partnership, Bank of America is making a significant investment in one of*

Invest in our work



*the critical components of our community, public education. By partnering with Wake Education Partnership, we are supporting excellence in public education, which in turn, promotes the overall economic health of the community we serve."*

**Kari Stoltz**  
**Regional President**  
**Bank of America**

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## Wake Regional Education Roundtable Series

On May 18, the Apex Chamber of Commerce will host a Wake Regional Education Roundtable discussion on accreditation. [Register now](#) for this event!

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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**By the numbers...**

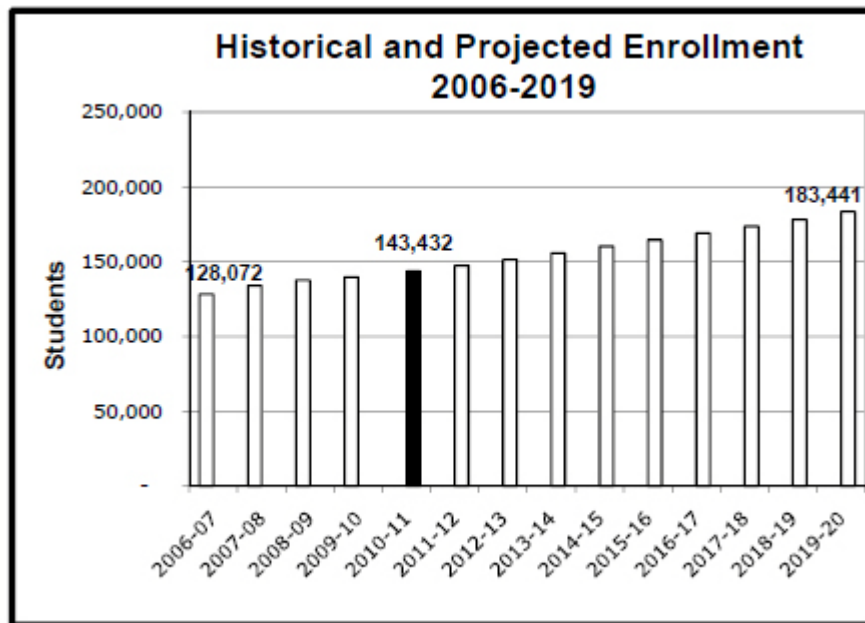
A few years back, the Partnership published an annual digest titled *Quality Matters*.

Most of the data found in that publication can now be easily collected online, but we thought it might still be appreciated if we offered a couple of facts and figures in each newsletter.

We hope the information provides a relatively painless way to better understand the numbers that define the 18th largest school district in the country.

The obvious place to start in Wake County is public school enrollment. Take a look at the chart below. If you can remember that Wake County has 163 schools this year and more than 1,100 mobile units, you're off to a good start and ahead of most people.

The source is the [Demographics section](#) of the school district's web site.



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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.

Join our mailing list

Invest in our work
