
GUILFORD EDUCATION ALLIANCE APPOINTS LOCAL CHILD ADVOCATE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Guilford County: Local advocate for children and youth, Dr. Margaret Bourdeaux Arbuckle, has been selected unanimously by the Board of the Guilford Education Alliance to become its Executive Director on January 1, 2005. “We are so pleased that Dr. Arbuckle has agreed to join the Alliance and provide leadership as we work toward our vision of every citizen of Guilford County having opportunity to reach his or her educational potential. She has demonstrated her commitment to children through years of service to this community and our state. Her knowledge and passion about children’s issues and education will have positive impact on Guilford County into the future,” said Jim Morgan, Chair of the Board of the Guilford

Education Alliance.

The Guilford Education Alliance, an affiliate of the national Public Education Network, was established by a cooperative effort of the Greater Greensboro Community Foundation and the High Point Community Foundation and is also supported by the Cemala Foundation, the Weaver Foundation and the Duke Energy Foundation.

The Alliance, like similar organizations in Mecklenburg, Durham and Wake counties, will support initiatives and promote partnerships that enable our schools to achieve excellence. It will serve as a convener of citizens and community groups to build support for education across the life span. The Alliance will endeavor to become a trusted resource for accurate, meaningful information about educational issues and education reform in order to harness resources to develop high quality education for all citizens. It will serve as an advocate for education, a critical friend of the Guilford County School system, and a promoter of educational opportunity for all citizens.

Wendy Puriefoy, President of the national Public Education Network (PEN), said in learning of Dr. Arbuckle’s appointment, “PEN believes an active, involved community is the key to ensuring that every child in the community benefits from a quality public education. I look forward to partnering with Margaret and the Guilford Education Alliance in this valuable work.”

Eric Law, who joined the Alliance as its first Executive Director in October 2003, is returning to the Charlotte area for family reasons. "I am thrilled to be leaving the Alliance in such capable hands," said Law. "I have full confidence that Margaret will take this organization to the next level as a preeminent source of information, a valued convener, and a respected entity worthy of the community's support. I look forward to working with her in the coming weeks to effect a smooth transition."

Dr. Arbuckle is a leader in working with groups and individuals on developing consensus on children's issues. She has served on numerous community boards and she is a founding Board Member of the Guilford Partnership for Children, Smart Start, and is its former chair. She serves as Chair of the North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute, a 20 year statewide organization committed to leadership to create public policies that support the needs of children and families, with focus on early childhood development, education, juvenile justice, child welfare, health and safety.

Most recently, Dr. Arbuckle has served as an Associate Director of the Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships at UNCG where she provided leadership in the development of interdisciplinary collaborative services for children with serious emotional disturbance and youth in the juvenile justice system.

Dr. Arbuckle graduated from Salem College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and received her Masters of Education and Ph.D. from UNCG in Human Development and Family Studies. She has served as a Guilford County Commissioner and during her tenure initiated the Children's Cabinet.

"This community has a strong educational heritage as evidenced by its seven colleges and universities and highly respected community college. We also have deep commitment to education from parents, citizens and community groups. We have an opportunity to build upon this rich history and work together transforming this community to new heights by committing to the vision of quality education for each of our children. Truly, there can be no greater economic development activity than investing in our educational process for all of our children and youth. My dream is for Guilford County to be nationally recognized as THE community in this country with a commitment to quality education for everyone!"