

# Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

January 7, 2009

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## Upcoming Events

**Thursday January 8:** "A Public Forum on Education" hosted by the Arcs of High Point and Greensboro; 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Deep River Friends Meeting, 5300 W. Wendover Avenue, High Point; free child care provided; RSVP by January 6th; for more information call 883-0650 x 230

**Thursday January 13:** Guilford County Board of Education meeting; 6:00 pm; 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro; for an agenda, visit [www.gcsnc.com](http://www.gcsnc.com)

**Saturday January 24:** "Finding Money for a College Education" 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Central Library, 219 N. Church Street, Greensboro; for more information go to [www.greensborolibrary.org](http://www.greensborolibrary.org)

**Monday January 26:** "Kickoff to Kindergarten: Parent Days", come learn how to help your child be ready for Kindergarten; High Point Museum, 1859 E. Lexington Avenue, High Point; 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm; for more information, call 885-1859

**Tuesday January 27:** Guilford County Schools Strategic Plan presentation to the community; 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm; GTCC Campus Jamestown, Koury Auditorium, 601 High Point Road, Jamestown

**Monday February 23:** "Kickoff to Kindergarten: Parent Days", come learn how to help your child be ready for

Happy New Year to all of our readers!

Welcome to the Guilford Education Alliance newsletter. We hope you find this informative and helpful!

## Teacher Supply Warehouse Needs Donations

The downturn in the economy finds more parents unable to send their children to school with the supplies they need. This, combined with Guilford County School budget reductions, means a significantly higher number of teachers have been taking advantage of the Teacher Supply Warehouse, where they can find items to use in their classrooms at no charge. The inventory has been greatly depleted due to this increased use, and there is an immediate need for more donations. Items in short supply include pencils, notebook paper, copy paper, markers, tape, glue sticks, index cards and erasers. Teachers can also use a variety of items from basic supplies to things such as carpet squares, fabric and trade show samples.

The Teacher Supply Warehouse collects new or gently used items from local businesses, organizations and individuals and allows teachers to "shop" the warehouse free of charge. Operated by Guilford Education Alliance in partnership with the Welfare Reform Liaison Project, Leadership Greensboro and Guilford County Schools, the TSW opened in Fall, 2007. In the first year of operation, there were more than 900 teacher visits, which recycled \$250,000 worth of classroom supplies back into the classroom. **During the last four shopping days in December, 2008 the TSW had 215 teacher visits.**

For a complete list of supplies needed, visit the Teacher Supply Warehouse Website:

[www.gcsnc.com/teacher\\_warehouse/index.html](http://www.gcsnc.com/teacher_warehouse/index.html). To contribute supplies, contact Guilford County Schools at 336-370-8355. For more information, contact the Guilford Education Alliance at 336.841.4332 or [info@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org](mailto:info@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org).

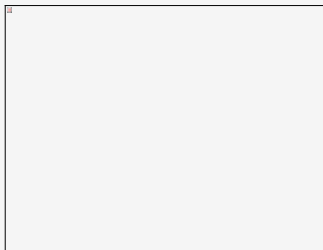
## Students, Teachers Won't Feel Cutbacks

Guilford County Schools officials say they've managed to limit the

Kindergarten; Greensboro Children's Museum, 220 N. Church Street, Greensboro; 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm; for more information, call 885-1859

To learn how you can help fund school projects, visit

<http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/search.html?zone=301&community=749:1>



To donate materials to Guilford County Schools Teacher visit

[http://www.gcsnc.com/teacher\\_warehouse/index.html](http://www.gcsnc.com/teacher_warehouse/index.html)

### Our Sponsors

Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, High Point Community Foundation, the Cemala Foundation, the Weaver Foundation, the Tannenbaum Sternberger Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, and Duke Energy Corporation, Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Allen Tate Realtors, and The News & Record, as well as many

impact on students and teachers of a \$3.8 million budget cut. Officials said Wednesday December 17th they are proposing cutting about \$1.7 million from schools and another \$2.05 million from administrative funds.

The \$3.8 million cut represents \$2.8 million that must be returned to Raleigh because of a state budget shortfall and another \$958,000 that must be cut because student enrollment in the county was lower than estimated.

[www.news-record.com/content/2008/12/17/article/students\\_teachers\\_wont\\_feel\\_cutbacks](http://www.news-record.com/content/2008/12/17/article/students_teachers_wont_feel_cutbacks)

### Teachers Feeling Pinch from Budget Cuts

The Board of Education announced how it would handle the budget cuts at the last board meeting. The Board of Education said they tried to keep the negative impact of the budget cuts to a minimum, but teachers are still feeling the pinch. Guilford County Schools (GCS) had to cut its budget by \$3.8 million. More than half of the reductions, \$2 million dollars, is coming from central administration. The remaining funds, \$1.7 million, is from funding that would go to the schools for instructional supplies...

<http://www.carolinapeacemaker.com/News/article/article.asp?NewsID=93448&SID=4>

### Obama's \$10 Billion Promise Stirs Hope in Early Education

It was the morning after the presidential election, and Matthew Melmed, executive director of Zero to Three, a national organization devoted to early childhood education, could barely contain his exultation. Mr. Melmed fired off an e-mail message to his board and staff, reminding them of President-elect Barack Obama's interest in the care and education of the very young and congratulating Mr. Obama for campaigning on a "comprehensive platform for early childhood."

Mr. Melmed was not alone in his excitement. After years of what they call backhanded treatment by the Bush administration, whose focus has been on the testing of older children, many advocates are atremble with anticipation over Mr. Obama's espousal of early childhood education.

[www.nytimes.com/2008/12/17/us/politics/17early.html?pagewanted=1&\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/17/us/politics/17early.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1&hp)

### Coalition Calls for Inclusion of Higher Education in Economic Stimulus Package

The American Council on Education has announced its involvement in a coalition that has called on Congress to make higher education a critical component of the economic stimulus package currently under consideration. Comprised of thirty higher education associations - including the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Indian Higher Education

individuals.  
Please join in thanking them for  
their support!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Consortium, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, EDUCAUSE, and the Women's College Coalition - the coalition is working to reinvigorate the partnership between higher education and government and ensure that colleges and universities receive a proportional share of the final stimulus package.

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=238300004>

### **Improving Teacher Quality by Hiring Better Teachers**

These authors examine a raft of characteristics that might be used as a basis for hiring new elementary and middle school math teachers: selectivity of the college from which they graduated, college major, any graduate degrees, standardized test results, cognitive ability, knowledge of relevant mathematics, and personal characteristics such as conscientiousness, extraversion and belief in self and general efficacy.

The upshot? On their own, each of these characteristics does in fact matter, but not very much. However, by combining all of these variables into two factors summarizing cognitive and non-cognitive skills, the researchers found more robust effects that suggest that "districts may be able to gain some traction in selecting more effective teachers by using broader sets of information during recruitment."...

<http://www.nctq.org/p/tqb/viewBulletin.jsp?bulletinId=0&volume=lastest#457>

### **Education and Health Calculator**

In every American community, social factors like education, income and neighborhood resources can affect how long and how well a person lives. For example, people with more education tend to have better health, while those who have fewer years of education, lower incomes or fewer neighborhood resources experience poorer health...

<http://www.commissiononhealth.org/calculator.aspx>

### **The Parent-Teacher Talk Gains a New Participant**

For years attendance was minimal at Tefft Middle School's annual parent-teacher conferences, but the principal did not chalk up the poor response to apathetic or dysfunctional families. Instead, she blamed what she saw as the outmoded, irrelevant way the conferences were conducted. Roughly 60 percent of the 850 students at Tefft, in this working-class suburb some 30 miles northwest of Chicago, are from low-income families. Many are immigrants, unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the tradition of parents perched in pint-size chairs, listening intently as a teacher delivers a 15-minute soliloquy on their child's academic progress, or lack thereof. "Five years ago, the most important person - the student - was left out of the parent-teacher conference," Tefft's principal,

Lavonne Smiley, said.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/28/education/28conferences.html?\\_r=3&sq=The%20Parent-Teacher%20Talk%20Gains%20a%20New%20Participant&st=cse&adxnl=1&scp=1&adxnlnx=1230648649-7/B3idMEBYNf0Qvu39CLFQ](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/28/education/28conferences.html?_r=3&sq=The%20Parent-Teacher%20Talk%20Gains%20a%20New%20Participant&st=cse&adxnl=1&scp=1&adxnlnx=1230648649-7/B3idMEBYNf0Qvu39CLFQ)

### **Effect of Parental Education on Heritability of Children's Reading Disability**

Parental education is a strong predictor of socioeconomic status and children's educational environment. Nevertheless, some children continue to experience reading failure in spite of high parental education and support for learning to read. University of Colorado at Boulder psychologists Angela Friend, John C. DeFries and Richard K. Olson examined if genetic and environmental influences on reading disability, the most commonly identified learning disability, interact with level of parental education... <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/12/081222122601.htm>

### **Education and the Workforce**

Public Policy Position: The ability of manufacturers to succeed in the highly competitive global marketplace depends on access to an educated, flexible and knowledge-based workforce. American employees, in turn, need the education and skills to participate in a high performance workforce for the robust and dynamic U.S. manufacturing economy... <http://www.nam.org/policypositions/>

### **Grant Opportunities**

#### **Keepers in the Classroom - NC Zoo**

\*Bring a NC Zookeeper to your classroom to present a fascinating program!

\*Programs meet Standard Course of Study objectives and the zoo pays all the cost!

\*If you want to implement a classroom environmental project- ie: a butterfly garden, bird feeding station, arts display around nature themes, compost site, recycling program- we will pay up to \$500.00 to support your efforts if you have a Keeper program.

Go to [www.nczoo.org](http://www.nczoo.org) and click on the Education Link to fill out an application

#### **Pre-K Summit Grants Available**

Hope Street Group's commitment to universal pre-K is a backbone of our education reform program; it's why we are happy to share with you that the Pew Charitable Trust's Partnership for America's Economic Success has issued a request for proposals from businesses and community organizations to apply for awards of up to \$10,000 to help finance state business summits on early childhood investments. (Funds are available for up to 15 states,

with one award per state; funding has come from Scholastic, Inc. and members of the Partnership for America's Economic Success. I have copied the RFP below; interested parties are asked to notify the Partnership of their intent to apply by contacting Grace Lee, [glee@pewtrusts.org](mailto:glee@pewtrusts.org).)

**William T. Grant Foundation Invites Letters of Inquiry for Youth Research**

**Deadline: January 9, 2009 (Letters of Inquiry)**

The William T. Grant Foundation (<http://wtgrantfoundation.org/>) is now accepting Letters of Inquiry for its field-initiated major grants program.

The foundation's current research interests include understanding how social settings such as families, schools, peer groups, and organizations work; how these social settings affect youth; and how such settings can be improved. The foundation's interests also focus on when, how, and under what conditions research evidence is used in policy and practice that affect youth, and how the use of such evidence can be improved. RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016124/wtgrantfdn>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_children.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_children.jhtml)

**NEA Foundation Accepting Applications for Student Achievement and Learning & Leadership Grants Programs**

**Deadline: February 1, 2009; June 1, 2009; and October 15, 2009**

The NEA Foundation (<http://www.neafoundation.org/>) supports a variety of efforts by teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to improve student learning in public schools, colleges, and universities across the United States.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016125/neafdn>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

**Point Foundation Offers Higher Education Scholarships for Gay and Lesbian Students**

**Deadline: February 9, 2009**

The Point Foundation (<http://pointfoundation.org/>), a scholarship-granting organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students of merit, has announced the opening of its 2009 application season. Students who will be enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs for the 2009-10 school year are eligible to apply for the multiyear scholarships.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016126/pointfdn>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Offers Grants to Prevent Childhood Obesity**

**Deadline: February 3, 2009**

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (<http://www.rwjf.org/>) whose primary goal is to implement healthy eating and active living initiatives that support healthier communities for children and families across the United States. The program places special emphasis on reaching children who are at highest risk for obesity on the basis of race/ethnicity, income, and/or geographic location.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016129/rwjforg>

For additional RFPs in Health, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_health.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_health.jhtml)

**Entries Invited for Intel Schools of Distinction Awards in Math and Science**

**Deadline: February 17, 2009**

The annual Intel Schools of Distinction Awards recognize U.S. schools that implement innovative, replicable programs that inspire their students and lead to positive educational outcomes in the areas of math and science.

In order to be considered as an Intel School of Distinction, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks, including national mathematics and science content standards.

RFP Link:

<http://www.intel.com/education/schoolsofdistinction/index.htm>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

**Horace Mann Companies Offers College Course Scholarships for K-12 Educators**

**Deadline: March 12, 2009**

The Horace Mann Companies are offering \$30,000 in total scholarships for public and private school K-12 educators to take college courses.

RFP Link:

<http://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx>

For additional RFPs in Education, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_education.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_education.jhtml)

To make a contribution to support the valuable programs of Guilford Education Alliance, visit

<http://www.guilfordnonprofits.org/donations/index.html>

**Sincerely,**

Guilford Education Alliance