



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

December 17, 2008

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Upcoming Events

Thursday December 18: Board of Education Meeting; 6:00 pm; 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro; for more information go to www.qcsnc.com

Tuesday January 6: "Career Exploration Fair 2009: Your Connection 2 the Future - An Interactive Experience"; an event for middle and high school students county-wide, hosted by Guilford County Schools; 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Coliseum Special Events Center - West Wing B1; for more information call Judy Harrington at 370-8338 or email harrinj2@qcsnc.com

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

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

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

US News & World Report Names Top Public High Schools

In its second year of ranking public high schools, the US News & World Report announced this year's list of America's Best High Schools. North Carolina fared well in the evaluation, ranking 25th with 41 of its 478 schools receiving Bronze status or better. Three schools in the state received Gold Status including the Early College at Guilford, Guilford County, Greensboro which is ranked #17 out of 100

www.ncforum.org Friday Report for 12/12/08

http://www.usnews.com/listings/high-schools/north%20carolina/early_college_at_guilford?s_cid=MSN:bhs

County Seeks Public Input on Budget

Not only will talks on the county's next budget be open, but the public is invited to participate, according to the chairman of the county Board of Commissioners. Small committees with a few commissioners, county staff and members from the business community will soon start work on Guilford County's next budget, said Melvin "Skip" Alston, chairman of the board...

http://www.news-record.com/content/2008/12/15/article/county_seeks_public_input_on_budget

More NC Teachers Gain Certification

North Carolina ranked second nationwide this year in the number of public school teachers gaining new national certification, the National

Congratulations to the 45 teachers who received the prestigious National Board Certification this year. These teachers are among the 9,600 educators who achieved this certification nationwide. A total of 517 GCS teachers have achieved this certification. The district ranks third in the state and 11th among all school districts in the nation for its number of National Board Certified teachers. For more information, please contact Stephen Foster, executive director-HR operations, at 378-8822.

http://www.gcsnc.com/newsbriefs/archive/2008/12_12.html



As holiday shoppers struggle to find the perfect gift for friends, family and colleagues, Guilford Education Alliance and DonorsChoose.org recommend giving the gift of education. Public school teachers with classroom resource needs are connected to individuals that want to help through www.DonorsChoose.org. The nonprofit organization DonorsChoose.org offers GivingCards which allow the recipients to go online and fund the Guilford County public school project of their choice.

"Giving a DonorsChoose.org GivingCard for the holidays has a three-fold return: recipients get to choose the school project they want to fund and see the lasting impact for students, givers are able to deduct the cost of the GivingCard from their taxes, and North Carolina schools receive much needed resources. How many other holiday purchases can you say that about?" said Katie Bisbee, DonorsChoose.org - Atlantic executive director.

To purchase DonorsChoose.org GivingCards in time for the holidays, donors can visit www.DonorsChoose.org and click the 'Gifts' tab or go directly to <http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/giftoptions.html>. To give to a Guilford County project, visit <http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/search.html?zone=301&community=749:1>

Board for Professional Teaching Standards said today. The board said 1,453 teachers in the state were certified in 2008. North Carolina ranked behind Florida in numbers of certified teachers. Florida had 1,826 certified teachers...

http://www.news-record.com/content/2008/12/09/article/report_more_nc_teachers_gain_certification

Obama Picks Arne Duncan for Education Post

President-elect Barack Obama will name Arne Duncan, the superintendent of schools in Chicago, to be his Secretary of Education, a senior Democratic official and a second person close to the decision said. Mr. Duncan is a Harvard graduate whose friendship with Mr. Obama began on the basketball court and flowered into frequent discussions of education policy...

<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/15/obama-picks-arne-duncan-for-education-post/>

Commission Finalizes Recommendations to 2009 General Assembly

On December 2nd the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation met to review and finalize their findings and discuss their recommendations to the 2009 General Assembly. Technical corrections are needed before the final report is presented to the 2009 General Assembly. The Commission's recommendations are as follows:...

www.ncforum.org Friday Report for 12/05/2008

Money Sought for Graduation Projects

A state legislator says the state should pay school districts' costs to oversee the projects that high schoolers must complete before getting their diplomas. Calling the new graduation requirement an unfunded mandate, Rep. Jimmy Love, a Democrat from Sanford, said he is considering a proposed law to allow school districts to drop the requirement unless the state pays for it...

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/education/story/1321377.html>

What Happened to the Jobs

Since 2000, North Carolina has not created



To donate materials to Guilford County Schools Teacher visit

http://www.gcsnc.com/teacher_warehouse/index.html

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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 individuals.

Please join in thanking them for their support!

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enough jobs to keep pace with the growth of the workforce. As a result, proportionally fewer prime-age adults (ages 20-64) are employed now than in 1990. This pattern is the opposite of the one that prevailed during the 1990s, when job growth consistently outpaced workforce growth. If the 1990s trend had continued, holding all else equal, there currently would be up to 487,000 more positions on North Carolina payrolls... http://www.ncjustice.org/assets/library/1340_btcrpt4dec2008jobs.pdf

Busting the Myth of Runaway Spending in NC

North Carolina's population has grown by an estimated 1.3 million people, or 17% since 2000; however, state spending has not kept up with population growth over the past decade. While North Carolina's general fund appropriations increased almost annually in nominal terms between FY98-99 and FY08-09, the FY08-09 budget appropriated \$19 less per person than the FY99-00 budget, when adjusted for population and inflation... http://www.ncjustice.org/assets/library/1342_btcbrief8dec2008spend.pdf

Out of Field Teaching Persists Across the Country

According to a report released last week from the Education Trust, out-of-field teaching persists among the nation's schools, despite reports from states claiming to have done away with the practice. The report, "Core Problems: Out-of-Field Teaching Persists in Key Academic Courses and High-Poverty Schools", found a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority students, with children in high-poverty schools to be almost twice as likely than those in more affluent schools to be taught by out-of-field teachers... www.ncforum.org Friday Report for 12/05/2008

Robots in a Box

The days when robots fold laundry, dust furniture or do other domestic tasks still lie in the future. But even if robots can't baby-sit our children, technology has advanced so rapidly in recent years that our children can build robots. A

variety of kits, for different ages and budgets, enable youngsters to create all kinds of automatons, including frogs, orangutans and classic mechanical humanoids...

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/02/technology/techspecial2/02robots.html?_r=1

Highlights from TIMSS 2007

The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2007 is the fourth administration of this international comparison since the 1995 initial administration. TIMSS is used to compare over time the mathematics and science knowledge and skills of fourth- and eighth-graders. TIMSS is designed to align broadly with mathematics and science curricula in the participating countries. The results, therefore, suggest the degree to which students have learned mathematics and science concepts and skills likely to have been taught in school. In 2007, there were 58 countries and educational jurisdictions that participated in TIMSS, at the fourth- or eighth-grade level, or both...

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009001>

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 and click on the Education Link to fill out an application

Florence Kitter Scholarship

Deadline: January 31, 2009

Students desiring to be considered for a Florence Kidder Memorial Scholarship must have the following material completed by Jan 31, 2009

A completed application form answering all questions. A separate listing of extracurricular

activities, honors, community or church work, and work experience.

A photograph

An official transcript of grades, including first semester senior grades and current GPA.

A letter of recommendation from the student's minister, employer or an adult friend.

A letter of recommendation from the student's high school guidance counselor or one of his/hers teachers.

Three copies of an original essay of 500-700 words on the following subject: Please staple each essay together with student's first name on the first page.

At the inception of the Electoral College, our Founding Fathers did not intend for it to be a democratic process. Over the last 200 years, our nation has become increasingly democratic. Do you believe process is still a viable mechanism today? Cite at least three outside sources to support your view. (Suggested sources might include the Internet, historic documents, personal interviews as well as traditional research materials.)

We request the high school guidance counselor mail the material (separate folders for each candidate) by Jan. 31, 2009 to:

Mebane Ham
675 Percy St
Greensboro, NC 27405
336.273.7448

**Coming Up Taller Awards Program Invites
Nominations of Arts Programs for Underserved
Children and Youth
Deadline: January 30, 2009**

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (<http://www.pcah.gov/>) invites nominations for the 2009 Coming Up Taller Awards (<http://www.cominguptaller.org/>), which recognize the accomplishments of exceptional arts and humanities afterschool and out-of-school programs. Programs initiated by museums, libraries, performing arts organizations, universities, colleges, arts centers, community service organizations, schools, businesses, and

eligible government entities are encouraged to participate.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016065/cominguptaller>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_children.jhtml

UnitedHealth Group Grants to Help Students and Educators Combat Childhood Obesity

Deadline: January 15, 2009

UnitedHealth Group

(<http://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/>) and Youth

Service America (<http://www.ysa.org/>) have

announced a program to give children the

opportunity to become "health care heroes" by

learning about childhood obesity,

designing programs to address it, and

implementing the programs in their communities.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016066/ysawards>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_children.jhtml

MTV and Ashoka GenV Invite Young People to Submit Their Ideas to Improve the Environment

Deadline: December 31, 2008

MTV Switch (<http://www.mtvswitch.org/>), MTV

Networks International's global climate change

campaign, and Ashoka GenV are inviting young

people to submit their creative ideas for

improving the environment through the "Dream It.

Do It." challenge.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15016067/mtvventure>

For additional RFPs in Health, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_environment.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

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.

RFP Link:

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

For additional RFPs in Health, visit:

http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_health.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