



## Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

December 3, 2008

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### Upcoming Events

#### Saturday December 6: "

Battle of the High School Bands" hosted by the Greensboro Jaycees in their parking lot in downtown Greensboro; for more information contact Maria Hicks-Few at 379-1570

**Saturday December 6:** Family Support Network of Central NC presents "Holiday Jamboree" for families and children with special needs; 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at Gateway Education Center, 3205 E. Wendover Avenue, Greensboro; for more information or to RSVP, call 832-6507 or email [support@fsncc.org](mailto:support@fsncc.org)

**Wednesday December 10:** "Clicky Live"; a free webcast at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm from NetSmartz about internet safety and gives kids 5-10 years old the tools they need to stay safer and play safer on the internet; visit [www.NetSmartzKids.org/ClickyLive](http://www.NetSmartzKids.org/ClickyLive) to RSVP, submit questions and download the free guide

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

### Perdue Transition Session on Education

Held Tuesday November 25th at the Western Campus of Wake Tech, staff members from Governor-elect Perdue's transition team lead a round table discussion on education. Lasting from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the meeting opened with an overview of the K-12, Community College, and UNC Systems. The overviews highlighted the history, structure and challenges faced by each system... [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) Friday notes for 11/26/08

The transition session was attended by leaders from across the state including Margaret Arbuckle, Executive Director of the Guilford Education Alliance.

### Committee Recommends Arts Education Credit

During the week of November 17th, committee members met to present their findings and recommendations regarding the implementation of arts education in the K-12 curriculum. If a recommended bill from the Joint Select Committee on Arts Education is approved during the 2009 session of the North Carolina General Assembly, the 2009 entering class of freshman could be required to take one arts education course for graduation... [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) Friday Report for 11/21/08

### Barack Obama Can't Do it Alone

This was the charge led by former Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. Friday Nov. 21st at a breakfast briefing hosted by the both former Governor Hunt and the Hunt Institute Foundation Board of Directors. With special guest Jon Schnur, the co-founder of New Leaders for New Schools and key spokesman for President-elect Barack Obama's education agenda, the briefing invited guests throughout the state's education landscape to hear first-hand the

**Wednesday December 10:** HandyCapable Network open house from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm; 2134 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro; for more information call 255-7488 or email [www.handy capable.org](http://www.handy capable.org)

**Thursday December 18:** Board of Education Meeting; 6:00 pm; 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro; for more information go to [www.qcsnc.com](http://www.qcsnc.com)



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](http://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](http://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](#)

education priorities of the new administration... [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) Friday Notes for 11/26/08

## **INNOVATOR - News About High School Innovation**

The November 7, 2008 edition includes the following stories:

- ABCs results improve for many innovative high schools
- Feds demand better monitoring, reporting of graduation rates
- Report: Young adults less educated than earlier generations
- East Wake student named semifinalist in Siemens competition
- North Carolina school innovation on public display Nov. 18

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs045/1102230245795/archive/1102312086811.html>

## **Task for Class of 2010: Decipher Project Rules**

The idea was to ensure that students leave high school with a better grasp of real life. And starting with the class of 2010, the idea will be a requirement. Every graduate must have completed a long-term project involving the world outside of school. But now it seems the idea itself may need some remedial help. School districts find the rules fraught with practical problems. For instance, a key to the project is finding an outside mentor in a student's chosen subject. But school districts say finding such volunteers is proving difficult, especially in rural areas...

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1314719.html>

## **Gates Foundation Announces Expanded Education Grantmaking**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (<http://gatesfoundation.org/>) has unveiled several new education initiatives designed to build on its previous work in high schools, the Seattle Times reports. With an initial focus on community colleges, the foundation hopes to double the number of low-income U.S. students who graduate from college or some kind of post-high-school program by 2025 and increase from 22 percent to 80 percent the number of low-income and minority

## 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 individuals.

Please join in thanking them for their support!



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)

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students who leave high school prepared to go to college. The foundation also intends to lead efforts to create a tougher, clearer, more concise set of national high school learning standards... Shaw, Linda. "Gates Foundation Turns Attention to Higher Education." Seattle Times 11/12/08...

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15015889/story>

## No Child Left Behind: How Do We Know if We're not Tracking

As the president of the Alliance for Excellent Education, a policy and advocacy group in Washington, D.C., focused on changing federal policy to better support effective secondary school reform, I often find myself citing facts that people find surprising - almost to the point of disbelief. At the top of the list is the shocking truth that American educators do not know exactly how many of our students are actually graduating from high school.

After all, if Federal Express can track a package from the moment it's picked up until it's delivered, shouldn't we be able to track our students from the moment they enter school until they leave it? Aren't schools keeping track? Aren't they required to keep track? Where do the numbers that are released annually by local and state governments about their graduation rates come from?...

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/commentary/co\\_item.jhtml?id=233800018](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/commentary/co_item.jhtml?id=233800018)

By Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education

## Michelle Rhee: Taking on the Holy Grail

"I believe we should proliferate what's working and close down what's not. Period." These are the words of Michelle Rhee, chancellor of the Washington D.C. public schools. Rhee is attempting to do what many reformers and policymakers have long viewed necessary but never had the authority to achieve. Since her appointment in June of 2007, Rhee has lived up to her audacious undertaking, closing over 23 underperforming schools and firing hundreds of district employees including over 200 unlicensed teachers. Monday evening at Duke University's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Rhee, one of the nation's leading education innovators, spoke about her task to lead one of the nation's most troubled school systems out of failure...

[www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) Friday Report for 11/21/08

## Fulfilling the Commitment: Recommendations for Reforming Federal

## **Student Aid**

According to a new report from the College Board, federal student aid programs designed and implemented during the 1960s and '70s significantly increased the number of Americans able to attend college but have fallen short of expectations. Funded by the Spencer Foundation and the Lumina Foundation for Education, the report, Fulfilling the Commitment: Recommendations for Reforming Federal Student Aid (40 pages, PDF), shares recommendations from the Rethinking Student Aid study group, which looked at how the system could be made more effective for students. The report argues that federal grant aid in combination with a reasonable amount of loans and work-study should be enough for all qualified students to complete a four-year degree. The report also recommends that federal aid be provided as clearly, transparently, and simply as possible...

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/connections/conn\\_item.jhtml?id=233400005](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/connections/conn_item.jhtml?id=233400005)

## **New Study Finds Time Spent Online Important for Teen Development**

The most extensive U.S. study on teens and their use of digital media finds that America's youth are developing important social and technical skills online - often in ways adults do not understand or value. "It might surprise parents to learn that it is not a waste of time for their teens to hang out online," said Mizuko Ito, University of California, Irvine researcher and the report's lead author. "There are myths about kids spending time online - that it is dangerous or making them lazy. But we found that spending time online is essential for young people to pick up the social and technical skills they need to be competent citizens in the digital age."...

[http://www.macfound.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=1kLXJ8MQKrH&b=2024163&content\\_id=%7b3A699BFD-3FA0-4793-8328-9E542E5280C9%7d&notoc=1](http://www.macfound.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=1kLXJ8MQKrH&b=2024163&content_id=%7b3A699BFD-3FA0-4793-8328-9E542E5280C9%7d&notoc=1)

## **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

### **Young Community Volunteers Invited to Apply for Do Something Awards**

**Deadline: March 1, 2009**

The Do Something Awards, formerly the Brick Awards, are designed to provide recognition and funding for young community volunteers. Do Something Award Winners receive a community grant, participation in a special award ceremony, media coverage, and continued support from Do Something (<http://www.dosomething.org/>). Visit the Do Something Web site for complete program guidelines.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15015936/dosomething>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

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

### **Music Matters Announces Music Education Grant Guidelines**

**Deadlines: February 4, 2009**

The Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation's mission is to support and redefine music education. Through music education, a child can better achieve his or her full potential and stimulate personal and educational growth. Grant amounts for this cycle will range from \$1,000 to \$12,000 each. Grants are made on an annual one-time basis. Details on the grant and the grant application can be found at the foundation's Web site.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15015944/heartmuzak>

For additional RFPs in Arts and Culture, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_arts.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_arts.jhtml)

### **General Mills Foundation Invites Applications for Champions for Healthy Kids Grant Program**

**Deadline: January 15, 2009**

The General Mills Foundation

(<http://generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/foundation.aspx>), in partnership with the American Dietetic

Association Foundation (<http://www.adaf.org/>) and the

President's Council on Physical Fitness (<http://www.fitness.gov/>), developed the Champions for Healthy Kids grant program to encourage communities in the United States to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people between the ages of 2 and 18. Visit the General Mills Foundation Web site for complete program guidelines and application forms.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15015946/generalmills>

For additional RFPs in Children and Youth, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_children.jhtml](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://mtvswitch.org/>), MTV Networks International's global climate change campaign, and Ashoka GenV (<http://genv.net/>) are inviting young people to submit their creative ideas to help improve the environment through the "Dream It. Do It. Challenge." Visit the program's Web site for complete entry guidelines.

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15015947/mtventure>

For additional RFPs in Environment, visit:

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat\\_environment.jhtml](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_environment.jhtml)

**Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teacher (ITEST)**

**Deadline: January 12, 2009**

The purpose of this program is to address the national shortages of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workers by

finding... [http://gn.ecivis.com/GO/r\\_grantDetail/GRANTID/34582](http://gn.ecivis.com/GO/r_grantDetail/GRANTID/34582)

**NEA Student Achievement Grants**

**Deadline: Rolling**

The purpose of this program is to provide materials and educational experiences to engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that...

[http://gn.ecivis.com/GO/r\\_grantDetail/GRANTID/34517](http://gn.ecivis.com/GO/r_grantDetail/GRANTID/34517)

**Math and Science Partnerships Program**

**Deadline: February 17, 2009**

The purpose of this program is to support innovative partnerships to improve K-12 student achievement in mathematics and science. Math and Science... [http://gn.ecivis.com/GO/r\\_grantDetail/GRANTID/34624](http://gn.ecivis.com/GO/r_grantDetail/GRANTID/34624)

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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