



## Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

April 29, 2009

### In This Issue

- Support Guilford Education Alliance
- Upcoming Events
- Summer Programs
- On Stage! 2009
- Graduation Projects Optional Until 2011
- Perdue Mandates Furlough for State Workers
- Schools Chief Asks For Cuts Statewide
- Expert Panel Says Gifted Students Must Be Challenged
- Upside of a Downturn: Dropouts Drop Back In
- Swimming Without a Suit
- The Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America's Schools
- School Officials Urged to Maintain/Expand Summer Sessions
- 'No Child' Law is Not Closing Racial Gap
- More on Afterschool Programs Aimed at Curbing Juvenile Crime
- Many Teacher in AP Voice Concerns at Its Rapid Growth
- Grant Opportunities

### Support Guilford Education Alliance

Guilford Education Alliance is dependent on donations from the community for its operating expenses. Please consider making a donation to support our initiatives

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

Also, be sure to join our new Facebook page!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Jamestown-NC/Guilford-Education-Alliance/57559838156>

### On Stage! 2009

**On Stage!**, the Guilford Education Alliance's talent showcase featuring more than 400 Guilford County Schools students, will be held Thursday, April 30 at 7:00pm at War Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are available at TicketMaster.com, at the Coliseum box office or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. All tickets are \$15, so reserve your seats now!

### Graduation Projects Optional Until 2011

Public schools CEO Bill Harrison has encouraged North Carolina school districts to keep high school students working on projects designed to prepare them for the working world, even though the state school board decided not to require such projects for graduation until 2011. Some districts have taken Harrison's suggestion, and will make this year's juniors complete their projects to get diplomas next year. That means the project will be required for graduation in 2010, depending on where students live.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1486069.html>

### Perdue Mandates Furlough for State Workers

Gov. Bev Perdue called the 10-hour furloughs for state workers that she announced Tuesday "distasteful." They could be just a taste of things to come. North Carolina's economy has slowed along with the rest of the country. Layoffs, stock market losses and falling sales have led to drops in income, sales and other taxes the state relies on to fund public schools, health insurance for the poor and more.

<http://www.news->

and work to promote quality education in Guilford County. Together, we can motivate our entire community to promote and support education for our students and our future.

[Click here to donate](#)

### Upcoming Events

**Thursday April 30:** On Stage! Showcase of Student Talent; 7:00 pm; War Memorial Auditorium; for more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/alliance/stage.php](http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/alliance/stage.php)

**Thursday April 30:** *Pills Can Kill; Your Teen and Prescription Drugs*; 6:30-7:00 pm refreshments, 7:00 - 8:30 panel discussion; Grimsley High School; free and open to the public

**Saturday May 2:** *Children's Day/Book Day*; Center City Park, Downtown Greensboro; 12 noon to 3 pm; free and open to the public; for more information go to [www.poetrygso.com](http://www.poetrygso.com)

**Monday May 4:** Discussion on how Exceptional Children fit into Guilford County School's strategic plan and new regional districts; Kernodle middle, 3600 Drawbridge parkway, Greensboro; for more information contact Carla Sutton at 676-4403 or Connie Bruffey at 605-4654; hosted by GCS and Guilford County Council of PTAs

**Wednesday May 6th - Wednesday June 10th:** Win-Win Resolutions is hosting C.R.E.W., a free educational conflict resolution program for parents and their children; for more information or to sign up visit <http://www.winwinresolutions.org/crew.html>

[record.com/content/2009/04/28/article/perdue\\_mandates\\_furlough\\_for\\_state\\_workers](http://record.com/content/2009/04/28/article/perdue_mandates_furlough_for_state_workers)

### Schools Chief Asks For Cuts Statewide

North Carolina's public schools have been asked to cut back on spending to help save \$159 million the state can use to meet its payroll and pay its bills in the coming weeks. In a memo sent Monday April 13th by Bill Harrison, the state's chief education officer, all 115 school districts and 98 charter schools have been told to freeze hiring, travel, promotions and new purchases.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/education/story/1485867.html>

### Expert Panel Says Gifted Students Must Be Challenged

For gifted children to succeed, they must be challenged, according to a panel of experts. Nearly 200 parents and educators filled the auditorium at Westview High School Thursday night to learn about the unique characteristics, best practices and identification methods for Talented and Gifted (TAG) students.

[http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2009/04/expert\\_panel\\_says\\_gifted\\_stude.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2009/04/expert_panel_says_gifted_stude.html)

### Upside of a Downturn: Dropouts Drop Back In

Grades in the gutter, cutting classes, expelled from Elkhart Central High School for fighting: Yamilette Colon was as close to becoming a dropout as a ninth-grader can get. "I'm not even going to lie to you, I was bad," said Colon, who admits she had a knack for attracting trouble. Three years later, though, Colon, now 18, is an alternative school honor student on track for a May diploma, spurred in part by a sense of self-pride, but also, she says, by the economic calamity that has shuttered plants, claimed jobs and dimmed the future for many young people in this hard-hit county dubbed the "RV Capital of the World."

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30283579>

### Swimming Without a Suit

Credit bubbles are like the tide. They can cover up a lot of rot. In our case, the excess consumer demand and jobs created by our credit and housing bubbles have masked not only our weaknesses in manufacturing and other economic fundamentals, but something worse: how far we have fallen behind in K-12 education and how much it is now costing us. That is the conclusion I drew from a new study by the consulting firm McKinsey, entitled "The Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America's Schools."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/22/opinion/22friedman.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/22/opinion/22friedman.html?_r=1)

**Thursday May 7:** Guilford County Faith Summit "Building a Community on a Foundation of Common Ground"; 7:45 am to 3:00 pm; for more information or to register, call (336) 691-5780

**Thursday May 7: Children's Mental Health Community Resource Fair;** 2-6 pm; for more information contact Lisa Salo at 389-6091 or [lsalo@quilfordcenter.com](mailto:lsalo@quilfordcenter.com)

**Saturday May 16: Greensboro Storyfest** at Festival Park in Downtown Greensboro; 11:30 am to 6:00 pm; free admission; [www.ncstoryfest.org](http://www.ncstoryfest.org)

### Summer Programs

**The Piedmont School** offers Traditional Summer School and One-on-One Tutoring; register by June 15 by calling (336) 883-0992 or visiting [www.thepiedmontschool.com](http://www.thepiedmontschool.com)

**Youth First Teen Summer Camp** will take place at the Folk Teen Center (3910 Clifton Road, Greensboro) Monday - Friday from June 15th to August 7th; the day camps last from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and is \$42 per week; Pre-registration begins on March 8th at the Sportsplex Summer Camp expo from 1-6 pm; for more information, go to

<http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Parks/programs/youthfirst/>

**Greensboro Children's Museum Summer Camp Buzz!** Weekly camps will take place June 15th - August 14th; morning camps are 8:30 - 12:30 and afternoon camps are 1:30 to 5:30; also a full day option; scholarships are available; for more information call 574-2898 x 305 or go to [www.gcmuseum.com](http://www.gcmuseum.com)

## **The Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America's Schools**

The extent to which a society utilizes its human potential is among the chief determinants of its prosperity. In the United States, one focus of concern in this regard has been the existence of a so-called achievement gap in education between certain groups of students and others.<sup>1</sup> While much controversy exists on the causes of the achievement gap, and on what the nation should do to address it, the full range of the achievement gap's character and consequences has been poorly understood.

[http://www.mckinsey.com/client/service/socialsector/achievement\\_gap\\_report.pdf](http://www.mckinsey.com/client/service/socialsector/achievement_gap_report.pdf)

## **School Officials Urged to Maintain/Expand Summer Sessions**

At the same time national education officials and organizations are urging school officials to use federal stimulus dollars to maintain or expand summer learning programs, North Carolina schools are planning on curtailing or cutting summer offerings. The Raleigh News & Observer reported this week that schools across North Carolina are planning extensive cuts in summer school programs. [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) Friday Report for April 24, 2009

## **'No Child' Law is Not Closing Racial Gap**

The achievement gap between white and minority students has not narrowed in recent years, despite the focus of the No Child Left Behind law on improving the scores of blacks and Hispanics, according to results of a federal test considered to be the nation's best measure of long-term trends in math and reading proficiency.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/29/education/29scores.html?\\_r=1&ref=education](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/29/education/29scores.html?_r=1&ref=education)

## **More on Afterschool Programs Aimed at Curbing Juvenile Crime**

Last week's Friday Report looked at three programs housed in the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that the Senate has proposed to cut out of next year's budget. The largest, Support our Students (SOS), serves over 14,000 in over 200 programs across the state. This week, the Friday Report will take a look at the other two programs. [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) Friday Report for April 24, 2009

## **Many Teachers in Advanced Placement Voice Concern at Its Rapid Growth**



Learn how you can help fund projects in Guilford County Schools' classrooms through donations on DonorsChoose.org.

[Click here to learn more](#)



To donate materials to Guilford County Schools Teachers visit the Teacher Supply Warehouse

[Click here to learn more](#)

### 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.

vey of more than 1,000 teachers of Advanced Placement courses American high schools has found that more than half are concerned the program's effectiveness is being threatened as districts loosen restrictions on who can take such rigorous courses and as students flock to them to polish their résumés.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/29/education/29class.html?ref=education>

## 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

### Bob Brown Scholarship

**Deadline: April 30, 2009**

The Bob Brown Scholarship, established by United Way of Greater High Point and High Point University, is for students residing in the greater High Point area. The scholarship is specifically designated for incoming freshmen who are involved with a United Way activity, either as a volunteer or a client. For more information, please contact United Way of Greater High Point at [info@unitedwayhp.org](mailto:info@unitedwayhp.org) or 336.883.4127.

### Target Stores Accepting Applications for Arts, Literacy, and Family Violence Prevention Grants

**Deadline: May 31, 2009**

Target offers store grants to support programs related to the arts, early childhood reading, and family violence prevention in the locations where the company does business.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=249700004](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=249700004)

### ING Announces Grants Program for School-Based Running Programs

**Deadline: June 1, 2009**

Global financial institution ING and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education have launched the ING Run For Something Better School Awards Program. The ING Run For Something Better program is a fundraising campaign that supports community and school-based youth running programs to help fight childhood obesity and introduce young people to the benefits of running.

Please join in thanking them for their support!

To become a sponsor of the Guilford Education Alliance, visit [www.GuilfordEducationAlliance.org/support/index.php](http://www.GuilfordEducationAlliance.org/support/index.php)

Join Our Mailing List!

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=249700006](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=249700006)

**United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries Women's Division Offers Funding for Youth Violence Prevention  
Deadline: July 1, 2009**

The Women's Division of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries offers grants of up to \$4,000 each for projects and programs that address the needs of children and young people between the ages of 5 and 18 in the areas of violence prevention, anti-abuse, and relationship abuse.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=249000035](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=249000035)

**Dollar General Accepting Applications for Youth Literacy and Back-to-School Grants**

**Deadline: May 22, 2009**

Dollar General annually offers support for youth literacy and school programs in areas served by Dollar General stores. The Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants provide funding to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations to help with the implementation or expansion of literacy programs for students who are below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading. Grants range in amounts up to a maximum of \$3,000 each.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=249600008](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=249600008)

**FINRA Investor Education Foundation Invites Applications for General Grant Program**

**Deadline: May 6, 2009 (Project Concept Forms)**

Through its general grant program, the FINRA Investor Education Foundation funds research and/or educational projects that support its mission of providing underserved Americans with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for financial success throughout life.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=249500013](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=249500013)

**Nature of Learning Grant Program Offers Support for Outdoor Classroom Programs**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is accepting applications from organizations interested in initiating a Nature of Learning program in their communities. The Nature of Learning is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System's community-based environmental education initiative.

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=250300012](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=250300012)

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

<http://www.guilfordeducationalliance.org/support/index.php>

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

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