

# BRIDGE BUILDERS

School Counselors, School Psychologists, and School Social Workers  
working collaboratively to build the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education System!

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Learn & Earn + EARN Scholarship = Free 4-year College Education  
or  
Online Learn & Earn + EARN Scholarship = Free 4-year College Education



## The Message: Graduate!

### Academic Support and Instructional Services Launch New Site

Academic Support and Instructional Services (ASIS) encompasses several areas of focus including K-12 Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, Accountability, Career and Technical Education, Exceptional Children, Program Monitoring, District and School Transformation, Talent Management and Development, and the Elementary, Middle/High School and LEA Councils. The division recently launched a new Web site, which provides easy access to all of these resources. To learn more, please visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/academicervices/>.

### Site Reflects Changes to Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

The K-12 Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology division recently introduced its new Web site, which includes links to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) and resources to educate and assist a variety of stakeholders. Please visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cit/> to view the site.

### Data Management Group Site Launched

The Data Management Group (DMG) is the official oversight body of the NCDPI. Its purpose is to allow the agency to provide accurate and timely data to key stakeholders. To view resources available on the new site, including Data Management Governance and Data Management Policies, membership and more, please visit [www.ncpublicschools.org/data/management](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/data/management).

### Request Form for 2009 Academic Scholars Program Seals Online

The request form for seals for the 2009 Academic Scholars program is available online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentsupport/news>. The form must be returned to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) by April 30. For additional information, contact Teresa Parker by email at [tparker@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:tparker@dpi.state.nc.us) or by phone at (919) 807-3837.

## Display New LEO Posters to Help Students Earn Free College Credit

There are two new posters now available on the NCDPI's Web site that educators can easily download, print, and display to encourage students to register for free college courses through Learn & Earn Online (LEO). Many North Carolina students are already enrolled in this free program and will graduate high school with two years of college credit or an associate degree. By sharing information about the LEO program and displaying these posters, you will help your students' jumpstart their college education and careers. The posters are available to download at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/learnandearnonline>.

## Are you Ready for Future-Ready Core?

Beginning with the freshman class next fall (2009-2010) students will be required to complete 21 state credits under two potential courses of study; Future Ready Core or Occupational Core Course of Study, along with other requirements (e.g. End-of-Course exams, N. C. Graduation Project, local requirements, etc) in order to graduate with a high school diploma. School counselors are paramount in ensuring student success in selecting appropriate courses and aligning a student's high school course of study with a student's intent for what they want to do beyond high school. Future-Ready Core allows the level of expectation to be the same for all students in order for high school graduates to be given the foundation of academic and life skills that they will need to learn for college, to enter a career or in the workforce as jobs change.

In order for you to assist students and families in planning and implementing Future-Ready Core, DPI has developed a website with several documents to assist your LEA and school with preparation and implementation of the new credit requirements encompassed under Future-Ready Core. To access this website go to: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements). There are several links on the left hand side each for a different requirement (e.g. N.C. Graduation Project, testing requirements, etc.) The link entitled "resources" contains several useful documents such as Frequently Asked Questions for Mathematics, a Parent Checklist, a generic powerpoint on Future-Ready Core, and other useful documents. Items periodically will be added, edited, or deleted to this website as appropriate and based upon LEA feedback.

DPI recognizes how critical your role is to the success of students in their high school course of study and appreciates your partnership in ensuring that students make informed decisions about their high school educational experiences.

Source: Elissa F. Brown, Ph.D., Director, Middle/High Council

## Grade 13

In order to prepare for the 2009-2010 school year, Grade 13 was recently added to NC WISE. Doing so at this time of year allows LEAs and schools to transition appropriate students to 13th grade for next year.

Starting in the 2009-2010 school year, UERS reports will be modified to pick up Grade 13 students. However, the reports are not ready yet and will not reflect Grade 13 until next school year. Schools should add Grade 13 to their list of Grades Taught on the Grades and Catchments screen (School > School Information > School Details > More Info > Grades and Catchments). However, students should only be assigned to Grade 13 on the Pre-Transition List. Please do not change the grade level for students in the current school year. If schools have already moved students to Grade 13 in the current year, please move these students back to 12th grade. Homeroom History records will have to be corrected as well.

Information regarding how and why to assign students to Grade 13 will be coming soon in the updated YET documentation and the YET Refreshers in April.

For more information or questions about Grade 13, please contact the NC WISE Service Desk at [help@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:help@dpi.state.nc.us) or (919) 807-4357.

## MEASUREMAKERS: Demonstrating and Sharing Accountability for Student Success

The North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA) has paired up once again with Dr. Carol Dahir, co author of School Counselor Accountability: A Measure of Student Success. The mission of our collaborative relationship with Dr. Dahir is to help school counselors in North Carolina meet the expectations of the new *North Carolina Standards for Professional School Counseling* as well as train a cadre of school counselors who will take their skills into our eight regions to work with school counselors in data collection to accomplish this goal. Using the MEASURE model aligns school counselors with the ASCA National Model and our new *North Carolina Standards for Professional School Counseling*.

The scope of work to be done will commence with the initial overview of MEASURE training at Lenoir Rhyne University on April 18<sup>th</sup>. In June, the group will reconvene to “roll up their sleeves” with practical application and discuss issues surrounding data collection, specifically using data to promote social justice. Attendees will then have the option of applying to be a trainer to teach in their respective regions. Dr. Dahir will return at our fall conference to complete training and help acknowledge the MEASURE team.

Many of you attended the MEASURE workshops at the NCSCA 2007 conference. This is an opportunity for you to review the data you have been working on or set up a MEASURE plan for the 2009-2010 school year.

For all school counselors, the new *North Carolina Professional School Counseling Standards* requires counselors to show evidence that school counseling programs are accountable, promote student achievement, and contribute to the instructional program. NC school counselor now, more than ever before must show competency in the challenge of accountability and use data to show the impact of their work on their schools and districts improvement goals. These goals include attendance, drop out prevention, student behavior, promotion and retention, and post secondary options.

School counselors who attend the training will a) acquire knowledge and skills to assist in meeting the new NC Standards for School Counseling; b) work with your school data to develop a MEASURE plan which connects school counselor to school improvement goals; c) share accountability for student success by developing strategies to collaborate with key stakeholder to move school improvement data in a positive direction; and d) share your best practices in using data to show what you do every day and how you make a difference!

NCSCA is making professional development mini grants available to school counselors to cover the cost of registration. NCSCA will award the reimbursement money to winners *after* the workshop.

Go to [www.ncschoolcounselor.org](http://www.ncschoolcounselor.org) for registration and mini grant information.

### New guidebook offers help for communities on dropout crisis

Communities in search of strategies for stemming the tide of dropouts and ensuring that all students graduate from high school well prepared can now turn to a comprehensive catalogue of resources issued last month by America's Promise Alliance, a national organization focused on student success. "[Grad Nation: A Guidebook to Help Communities Tackle the Dropout Crisis](#)" lays out compelling arguments for mobilizing support, from sobering statistics about the scope of the problem to the staggering costs that dropping out means for individual futures and the broader economy.

The guidebook goes on to outline a series of questions that it says local communities should be asking to assess the scope of their own dropout problem, the reasons that underlie it, existing policies and supports and how well prepared graduates are for college, the workforce and life.

The North Carolina New Schools Project and two other efforts to create new innovative high schools are mentioned among a broad range of solutions offered as examples that provide deeper insight.

The guidebook was written by researchers at the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University and Civic Enterprises. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation helped support the project.

Source: INNOVATOR, March 6, 2009

## Graduation Project Institute

The Tar River Writing Project will host a professional development institute on the Graduation Project, May 1-2, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Brownstone in Raleigh. Institute registration is available online through April 10, 2009 at <http://cpeprograms.ecu.edu/CourseStatus.awp?~~TRWP2009>.

SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTER EARLY! Institute check-in begins at 12:30 Friday May 1, with the opening session beginning at 1pm.

### Day 1 features the following:

- Opening session with representatives from NCDPI and coordinators from around the state
- Opportunities to explore current implementation practices
- Support for creating strategies and timelines that fully align implementation with the intent of the State Board of Education

### Day 2 explores the following:

- Scaffolding writing instruction
- Teaching project management skills
- Using technologies for managing & safely storing student artifacts
- Understanding the North Carolina Graduation Project (NCGP) rubrics
- Training faculty and community volunteers
- Facilitating the research process
- Managing and assessing individual conferences
- Tips and tools for non-English teachers advising GP
- Administrators and the GP

This institute is open to teachers, administrators, curriculum leaders, NC Graduation Project Coordinators, and university faculty. Registration includes institute materials, lunch, and between-session snacks. The Tar River Writing Project is an approved staff development provider for Title I and Title II.

## Call for Proposals: Graduation Project Institute

North Carolina secondary teachers, administrators, and Graduation Project coordinators are invited to submit proposals for the Graduation Project Institute at the Holiday Inn: Brownstone in Raleigh, NC, on May 1 - 2, 2009. **Before April 3<sup>rd</sup>**, please submit proposals for workshops, individual or group presentations, or poster sessions highlighting implementation practices.

Proposals may be submitted that align with any of the following strands related to Graduation Projects:

- Scaffolding writing instruction
- Teaching project management skills
- Using technologies for managing and securely storing student artifacts
- Understanding the North Carolina Graduation Project (NCGP) rubrics
- Training faculty and community volunteers
- Facilitating research across disciplines
- Managing and assessing individual conferences
- Tips and tools for non-English teachers advising GP
- Administrators and the NCGP
- Tools for NCGP Coordinators
- Strategies and resources for effective presentations
- Integrating information skills across the curriculum
- Vertical collaboration

To submit your proposal, or for additional information on the Graduation Project Institute, please visit the website for the Tar River Writing Project: [www.trwp.org](http://www.trwp.org)

### **NC-ALIVE Scholarship**

NC-ALIVE will be sponsoring a scholarship for a deserving CTE student this year. Scholarship Criteria is below:

- Complete application must be postmarked no later than April 20, 2009 for consideration for the 2009-2010 academic year
- Three letters of recommendation (2 – teachers(one must be a CTE Teacher) 1-employer, principal, guidance counselor, coach, or club advisor)
- Must submit a copy of a recent high school transcript (does not have to be an official copy)
- Graduating high school seniors must have a 2.5 weighted cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)
- Copy of letter of acceptance from college, university or vocational education institution applicant will attend, or statement explaining acceptance
- Brief written statement
- This is a one-time scholarship of \$250.00.

To secure the scholarship application contact [sdbynum@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:sdbynum@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)

### **Succeeding in College and at Work: Students with Disabilities Tell Their Stories**

The New England ADA Center recently released four video interviews conducted with college students with disabilities. In the videos, the students share strategies to successfully stay in school, graduate and get jobs. Students reveal their struggles with self-reporting their disability, and negotiating accommodations in school and at work. DVDs are available upon request. Please see

[http://adaptiveenvironments.org/neada/site/student\\_videos](http://adaptiveenvironments.org/neada/site/student_videos)

### **The Women's Sports Foundation – GoGirlGo! Ambassador Team Awards**

The GoGirlGo! Ambassador Team Awards championed by Gatorade reward high school girls for taking the lead by inspiring other girls to participate in sports and physical activity. Gatorade is seeking teams that lead their own project and get girls in their communities physically active.

A total of \$50,000 will be awarded to twenty teams throughout the country. Eligible applicants include school, amateur, community and/or nonprofit affiliated teams whose members are female, enrolled in the 9th-12th grade and are residents of the United States, its territories, or protectorates.

Deadline: July 17, 2009

Please contact The Women's Sport Foundation for more specific grant information:

<http://66.40.5.5/Grants%20And%20Scholarships/Grants.aspx>

Source: The Center Weekly Insider--The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools (CHHCS)

## Cross Creek ECHS to help model innovative teaching, learning

With the addition of Cross Creek Early College High School, a joint effort is now fully underway to develop a complement of four innovative schools in North Carolina as showcases of teaching and learning that ensure all students graduate well prepared.

Cross Creek, on the campus of Fayetteville State University, was selected by the North Carolina New Schools Project (NCNSP) and the University of North Carolina system to be part of the [Learning Laboratory Initiative](#), a \$2.5-million effort funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the development of innovative high schools that can demonstrate rigorous, effective instruction and deep student engagement to educators, university faculty and policymakers.

The Cumberland County school board last week approved a partnership with NCNSP and UNC to transform the early college high school into a national model of performance and to begin to host visits to the school by practitioners and others beginning in 2011. Earlier this year, school boards in Caldwell, Durham, and Wayne counties approved similar partnerships for Caldwell Early College High School, Hillside New Tech High School, and Wayne School of Engineering.

Cross Creek and the other three Learning Lab sites were picked from among 21 schools through a process that involved proposals by each, analysis of the schools' student performance and teacher perceptions, and site visits to the finalists. The selection process involved a panel of high school innovation experts from outside North Carolina.

The four schools - which include two sites at which traditional high schools are being redesigned and two early college high schools - were found to be the most ready to accelerate the innovative work they have begun and to hold great promise to grow into models for the state. Through the initiative, the four schools will receive enhanced coaching and support from NCNSP and a UNC institution linked to each over the next three years.

Cross Creek is one of 60 early college high schools open on the campuses of two- and four-year colleges and universities across North Carolina. Students enrolled in early colleges earn a high school diploma and two years of transferable college credit or an associate degree. Last year, Governor Mike Easley and NCNSP honored Cross Creek with the state's first Innovator Award for its strong performance in its first three years: Not a single dropout reported and strong achievement, particularly among the school's mostly poor and minority students who are the first in their families to attend college.

Since 2003, part of NCNSP's work to establish more than 100 innovative high schools across the state has been to take more than 700 teachers, principals, and education policymakers on "study visits" in seven states to well-established innovative high schools that have a track record of graduating all students ready for college, careers and life.

"Through those visits, long-held beliefs about what students can do - and which students can do it - have been reshaped, practical solutions have been conveyed, and the value of teachers watching peers teach has been reaffirmed," said NCNSP President Tony Habit. "The rapid development of the Learning Lab schools will allow that change to happen more frequently and more regularly for educators in the field or in training, for the university faculty who train them, and for North Carolina's leaders."

Source: NC New Schools Project's Innovator

## A First Look at the New Undergraduate Curriculum at Appalachian State University

Beginning fall, 2009, an Appalachian education will start with the **General Education Program**. Through an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, students learn to adapt to new environments, integrate knowledge from diverse sources, and continue learning throughout their lives. The General Education Program draws on nationally identified best educational practices as well as what employers' say they want from today's graduates.

The General Education has four goals: **thinking critically and creatively, communicating effectively, making local to global connections, and understanding responsibilities of community membership.**

Beginning with the First Year Seminar, the General Education Program accounts for 44 semester hours of a student's degree program. A total of 29 hours comes from the program's four integrated units called "Perspectives" – Aesthetic, Historical and Social, Local to Global, and Science Inquiry – with rotating themes from which students select their courses.

The program also includes writing courses at the freshman and sophomore level, plus a junior-level writing course in each major; quantitative literacy courses to develop reasoning and numerical skills; and a wellness literacy requirement to enhance students' knowledge and management of their personal health in all its dimensions. The General Education Program also incorporates an information communication technology literacy requirement as well as a Senior Capstone Experience in a student's major.

### General Education at a glance

- New curriculum focuses on interdisciplinary teaching; student begins with a First Year Seminar, taught by a faculty member with a Ph.D. in an academic discipline or a masters level faculty member with credentials in an academic discipline.
- Curriculum is writing intensive; writing is a priority at every level of the student's undergraduate academic experience into the Senior Seminar or Capstone course in the major.
- Curriculum includes understanding the social responsibility of community membership, through engagement with major issues, outreach efforts, and practical application.
- Priority is given to teaching students to think critically and creatively; employers report back, year after year, that these students are the most attractive new professional hires.

To learn more visit the web at [www.generaleducation.appstate.edu](http://www.generaleducation.appstate.edu) and at [www.firstyearseminar.appstate.edu](http://www.firstyearseminar.appstate.edu).

### School Counselors, we need to hear from you...

We are in the process of updating our database of North Carolina high school counselors. The University will use this information to help high school counselors who have students applying for admission to Appalachian. In order to provide this information to counselors, we need up to date information on the counseling professionals at each high school in the state.

Your high school principal will receive an email from the Office of Admissions at Appalachian with instructions on how to update your school's information on our website. We will ask principals to share this email with the counseling staff at their school. For details about this process or to learn more about the services we hope to offer counselors in the future, visit [www.admissions.appstate.edu/counselor](http://www.admissions.appstate.edu/counselor).

For more information, questions, or feedback, please contact: Ezell P. Williams, Information Services Consultant at 828.262.2026 or [williamsep@appstate.edu](mailto:williamsep@appstate.edu)

## Second Annual NC OMK Visual Arts Contest

North Carolina 4-H's Operation: Military Kids program is proud and excited to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NC OMK Visual Arts Contest. The contest is opened to all youth. The age categories are 5-8 years old, 9-10 years old, 11-12 years old, 13-15 years old, and 16-18 years old. The contest is designed to introduce youth to photography and the arts as a part of the 4-H Expressive Arts Curriculum. Youth will utilize their photography skills and their artistry but most importantly what freedom, patriotism, and support for our troops mean to them. Selected photographs will be displayed during the week of the 2009 North Carolina 4-H Congress, other events and appropriate venues.

Submission Deadline: 30 April 2009

Guidelines and themes are located at <http://www.nc4h.org/military/index.html> under Other Military Outreach Projects and Resources section.

Submissions are to be mailed to:

By US Postal Service Use:

NC OMK Photo & Arts Contest  
NC 4-H Youth Development  
Box 7606, NC State University  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7606

By FedEx, UPS or Other Ground Service Use:

NC OMK Photo & Arts Contest  
NC 4-H Youth Development  
512 Brickhaven Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27606

If you have questions regarding this opportunity, please contact Scott Enroughty at [scott\\_enroughty@ncsu.edu](mailto:scott_enroughty@ncsu.edu) or 919.515.8500.

## Florida A & M University is providing an outstanding opportunity for Black women entering college in the fall of 2009

It is designed to address their absence in the field of computer technology. Dr. Jason Black is the Principal Investigator of a recently awarded \$552,000 NSF Grant entitled African-American Women in Computer Science. The grant provides scholarships, from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per semester for female African American students. The full text of the press release can be found at:

<http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?a=headlines&p=display&news=602&archive>

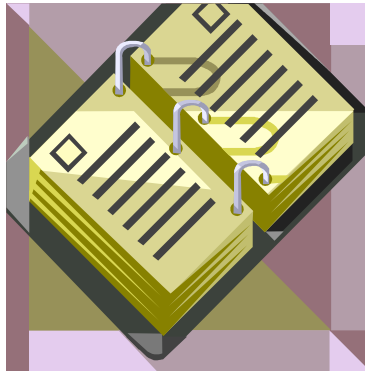
For questions, please contact Dr. Black by email at [jblack@cis.famu.edu](mailto:jblack@cis.famu.edu)

## Professional Development Opportunities

- **All About the Children Blazing Trails to Quality and Leadership**, Children and Family Services Association-NC, April 29 - May 1, 2009, Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resort, Asheville, NC. For detailed information about the conference, including workshop descriptions, conference schedule and registration information, go to: [http://www.cfsa-nc.org/images/pdf/2009springconf\\_program.pdf](http://www.cfsa-nc.org/images/pdf/2009springconf_program.pdf)
- **American School Counselor Association National Conference**, June 28-July 1, 2009, Dallas, Texas, Online registration opened January 2 download a registration form at <http://asca2.timberlakepublishing.com//files/09confregform.pdf> and register by mail
- **2009 National Association of School Psychologists' Summer Conferences** will take place on July 13-15, 2009 - Washington, DC and July 20-22, 2009 - Albuquerque, NM. Specific information is located at <http://www.nasponline.org/conventions/summerconf.aspx>
- **NC Dropout Prevention Association, 2009 Annual Conference**, September 20-23, 2009, at Sea Trail Resort in Sunset Beach. Please check the website at <http://www.ncdpa.com> for conference information
- **North Carolina School Psychology Association's** 2009 Fall Conference, October 10-13, 2009, Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, 421 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC. Specific information will be located at <http://ncschoolpsy.org/conferences/conferences.htm>
- **North Carolina School Counselor Association's Fall Conference**, November 4-6, 2009, Koury Conference Center, Greensboro, NC. Specific information will be located at <http://www.ncschoolcounselor.org/conference.asp>
- **National Association of School Psychologists'** Annual Conference, March 2-6, 2010, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago, IL
- **American School Counselor Association National Conference**, July 3-6, 2010, Hynes Convention Center, Boston, Massachusetts

***If you are aware of workshops, trainings, and/or staff development activities that benefit student support services personnel, please send all pertinent details to [tsmith@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:tsmith@dpi.state.nc.us).***

## Mark Your Calendar



**National School Nurse Week  
May 6 – 12, 2009**

**National School Psychology Awareness Week  
November 6 – 13, 2009**

**For breaking news visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentsupport/news>**

For your personal subscription to the Student Support Services E-newsletter, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentsupport/egroup> to register.

For past issues of the Student Support Services E-newsletter, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentsupport/enewsletter>

For Student Support Services E-newsletter Article Submission Form, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentsupport/enewsletter/>

For school psychologist practitioner questions, please contact  
Caroline McKnight Hexdall at [caroline.hexdall@cdl.unc.edu](mailto:caroline.hexdall@cdl.unc.edu)