

# *The Public School Forum's Friday Report*

PDF versions can be found at [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org)

Volume 12, Issue 28

January 29, 2010

## Arne Duncan to Speak at Emerging Issues Forum

Twenty-five years ago, the Emerging Issues Forum began by looking at the topic of innovation. This year, the Forum will come full circle as they attempt to enhance creative thinking and embrace new ideas -- the very creativity that is needed for true innovation.

Taking place at the Raleigh Convention Center on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, this year's agenda is filled with top level speakers including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Secretary Duncan will address the Forum on Monday afternoon in a session entitled "Reigniting America's Creative Genius". Other key presenters include Governor Tim Pawlenty (MN), Governor Beverly Perdue, Former Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. and others.

Registration ends February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. For more information and to register, go to [www.emergingissues.org](http://www.emergingissues.org).

## Senator Berger Discusses NC Teaching Fellows Program

In his most recent newsletter, NC Senator Douglas E. Berger shared information on the NC Teaching Fellows Program and how it is improving the quality of education for our state's students. See below for a reprint of Senator Berger's article on NC Teaching Fellows.

*"In 1986, the General Assembly enacted an ambitious teacher recruitment program, the NC Teaching Fellows Program, in an effort to improve the quality of our schools. It was, and still is, widely acknowledged that the quality of our schools is directly tied to the quality of the teachers in our schools. The Teaching Fellows Program seeks to recruit talented high school graduates into the teaching profession. Once they the new Teaching Fellows are accepted, the program helps to facilitate their development into exemplary teachers. The program is now considered a prestigious award for North Carolina's high school seniors.*

*The benefits of this program are two fold. First, high school students are given the opportunity to earn a hefty college scholarship. This allows some students to attend college when they would otherwise not have had the ability to do so. Secondly, because these students are required to teach for a total of four years in a North Carolina Public School following graduation, it provides a unique benefit to the students that they eventually teach.*

## Senator Berger (cont'd)

*By teaching in schools at such a young age, the Teaching Fellows graduates offer not only quality instruction but they also present these students with a wonderful role model. They show our children an example of what hard work and dedication can produce. They are intelligent and successful young people whom our children will then aspire to be like. These teachers are examples that many of our students will not have the opportunity to come in contact with, and the effect of these role models cannot be understated.*

*Above is a picture one of the graduates of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program who is currently teaching in our District. Her name is Natalie Duffield, and she is a Kindergarten teacher at Youngsville Elementary School. I asked her to talk about how the Teaching Fellows Program affected her, and here is some of what she had to say:*

*“The Teaching Fellows program helped me immensely to become the teacher I had dreamed of being since the age of 5. The preparation began while I was still in high school and applying for the program. I had to do several interviews which helped me prepare for the interviews I would later go on when applying for jobs. While in college, as a Teaching Fellow, I was given more opportunities to work with students in the classroom than my fellow education majors that were not part of the program. Our director would regularly have former Teaching Fellows come and talk with us about their experiences in the classroom and allow us to ask questions and learn from them. We took trips to Washington, D.C., to visit schools and talk with teachers and students as well as a week long tour of North Carolina communities to see and meet the people we would be working with in the next few years. In addition to the knowledge we gained in the classroom, the Teaching Fellows program set up conferences and trips for us each summer where we participated in more hands-on learning.”*

*“The knowledge and experience that I gained through the Teaching Fellows program has been passed on to my students. I feel it all came together to make me a much better teacher than I could have been without it. Our community benefits from having children that are being educated well because one day those little minds and hands will be leading us.”*

*“I am very thankful for all the Teaching Fellows program has allowed me to learn, do, and give back to North Carolina, and I hope I am able to teach here for a very long time. I can't imagine doing anything else anywhere else.”*

*I share Ms. Duffield's sentiments. Children are our future, and we must invest in them. The Teaching Fellows Program does this, with tremendous results. Our district and our state are the better for it. If you know of any students who may be interested in applying for the Teaching Fellows Program, please [visit here](#). “*

## NC Justice Center Reports on Achievement Gaps

According to a new report by the North Carolina Justice Center, even a decade after state leaders vowed to close the racial achievement gap, it remains wide open in North Carolina schools. The report shows that since 2000, NC public schools have failed to effect changes in the achievement gaps between white and non-white students.

## NC Justice Center (cont'd)

Using data from the NC Department of Public Instruction, the report shows, only 43.6 percent of black students in grades three through eight scored proficient or better on end-of-grade math and reading tests in the 2008-09 school year, while 76.7 percent of white students scored proficient or better. During the 2000-01 school year, the gap was also roughly 30 percentage points.

The Center's report also says the gap between black and white students remains similar on SAT scores. In 2001, the average SAT score for white students was 1041, 206 points higher than the average score for black students. In addition, the report notes disparities in graduation rates and high school tests. To view the report in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.ncjustice.org/sites/default/files/2010%20Achievement%20Gap%20report.pdf> .

## Information Technology Program Aimed at District Leadership

Nearly 70 school superintendents and technology directors from across the state, including three from Collaborative Project districts (Caswell, Mitchell and Warren) will soon learn how to use technology more effectively thanks to a new certification program offered through a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI), MCNC and the UNC School of Government's Center for Public Technology.

The certification programs' goals are to help school leaders manage the expanding role of information technology, protect the district from security threats, and keep pace with new technology trends. Superintendents will participate in the "Leaders for the 21st Century" Certification Program - a 20-hour instructional program.

Technology directors will participate in the "Certified Educational Chief Technology Officers" Certification Program - a 240-hour instructional program. This 10-month course establishes the foundation for assessing and addressing some of the most critical issues facing information technology leaders in school systems. The purpose of the program is to equip school leaders with the tools to help them manage and improve organizational technology.

Instruction begins Feb. 9 and concludes with a graduation ceremony on Nov. 17. The courses are based on the Certified Government Chief Information Officers Program.

## ARRA Funds Awarded to MCNC to Create 230 Jobs

This week Governor Perdue announced that MCNC has been awarded \$28.2 million in broadband funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Broadband Recovery Funds to build a 480-mile fiber optic network for the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN). The design, construction and operation of the network are estimated to create more than 230 new jobs in engineering and construction. In addition, the network has the potential to serve more than 1,500 school and community institutions, 180,000 businesses and more than 300,000 underserved families throughout the state.

MCNC will immediately begin to undertake the work of planning and building the new middle-mile fiber. Within the next 60 days, MCNC will issue several requests for proposals for the design, construction and operation of the network. The construction phase is estimated to last up to three years.

The ARRA appropriated \$7.2 billion and directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) to expand broadband access to unserved and underserved communities across the U.S., increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits.

This is our state's second broadband recovery related award. In October 2009, North Carolina's broadband authority eNC received a \$2.3 million broadband mapping grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce. In addition, the MCNC application has been coordinated closely with other applications for federal economic recovery funds in North Carolina, including those in the areas of health care and education.

## Pending Weather Alters Meeting Scheduled for Today/Tomorrow

Due to forecasted inclement weather, the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards Commission scheduled to meet today and tomorrow will meet via "GoTo Meeting" on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The primary agenda item will be the NC Teacher Working Conditions survey administration.

To participate, log in at the meeting Web site, <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/915316281> or call in by dialing 916-233-3083 (Access Code: 915-316-281 and Meeting ID: 915-316-281). For more information, please contact Connie Barbour at 919.807.3423.

## ASU – TFA Partnership to Improve Teacher Preparation

ASU restructured last year to move students out of the theoretical realm and into the trenches. All undergraduate and graduate programs that lead to teacher certification have been consolidated into the College of Teacher Education and Leadership. Now, thanks to a five year \$18.85 million grant, Arizona State University (ASU) will partner with Teach for America (TFA) to improve how it selects, prepares and tracks future K-12 teachers.

Teach for America has a two-decade record of success in recruiting university graduates, the majority without education degrees, to teach in low-income schools; excelling in preparing and supporting new teachers. The challenge facing the partnership will be scaling up. ASU will have to figure out how to apply techniques designed for a small setting to one of the nation's largest teacher-training programs. ASU currently has more than 5,400 students in teacher preparation.

The College of Teacher Education and Leadership has intellectual excitement to fuel the revamping efforts. A \$33.8 million five year federal grant will help aspiring teachers to take at least 25 percent fewer education classes, more courses in subjects they plan to teach, and spend more time in the classroom.

### *Forum News...*

## Seeking Jay Robinson Award Nominations

The Jay Robinson Leadership Award was established by the Public School Forum Board of Directors in recognition of outstanding leaders in the field of public education. The award may be given to anyone who has displayed innovative, creative, effective leadership for the public schools of North Carolina.

Past winners include Laura Bilbro-Berry, the first Teaching Fellow to be named North Carolina Teacher of the Year; Tom McNeel, superintendent of Caldwell County schools; Jim Causby, two-time state Superintendent of the Year and executive director of the NC Association of School Administrators; Robert Bridges, former superintendent of Wake County Schools and former chair of the state's Raising Achievement and Closing Gap Commission; Superior Court Judge Howard E. Manning, Jr., the trial court judge in the *Leandro* school finance case; Dr. Ann Denlinger, former superintendent of Durham Public Schools and Wilson County Schools and currently President, Wake Education Partnership; Phillip J. Kirk Jr., Director, Brady Energy Services, Bill Harrison, former superintendent Cumberland County Schools and Chairman of the State Board of education; and Dr. Dudley Flood, retired educator and consultant.

## Jay Robinson Award Nominations (cont'd)

The nominations must be postmarked by March 1, 2010. Nominations postmarked after that date and nominations delivered in person will not be accepted. The award ceremony will be held on June 21, 2010, at the Raleigh Crabtree Marriott Hotel. Admission will be by invitation only. The honor includes a cash award sponsored by BB&T.

To obtain an application, contact Claire Ancelet ([cancelet@ncforum.org](mailto:cancelet@ncforum.org)) at 919-781-6833 or you can download a copy at [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org).

## Last Weeks to Register for SYNERGY Conference!

The NC Center for Afterschool Programs' 2010 SYNERGY afterschool conference, *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics: STEMulate Your Afterschool Program*, will be held at the Joseph S. Koury Center in Greensboro on March 1-2, 2010. Join hundreds of afterschool directors, front-line staff, state administrators, and funders from across the state for two days of workshops, engaging keynote speakers, networking opportunities, and a special Youth Forum on Afterschool before an audience of elected officials.

Sample workshops include:

- **Easy, Fun and Inexpensive STEM Activities**, *Thomas Ray, 4-H Youth Development*  
Program participants will enjoy hands-on participation in a variety of STEM activities, including curricula and resources that are free or low-cost. For each activity, participants will receive a materials list, instructions and experiential learning model framework for the activity.
- **TechXcite: STEM in the Afterschool Setting**, *Dr. Paul Klenk, Duke University*  
TechXcite, a partnership between Duke University and 4-H, is a successful afterschool engineering program replicable nationwide. This workshop will introduce the program and basic activities for introducing engineering to an afterschool setting. To illustrate these concepts, coordinators will facilitate a few of the activities from the TechXcite Wireless Burglar Alarm module.
- **Mission Critical: REAL Students, REAL Problems, and REAL Solutions**, *Kenston J. Griffin, Dream Builders Communication, Inc.*  
This session is designed to support and motivate afterschool educators, while sharing successful techniques to avoid "Burn-Out", reduce stress, and demonstrate effective strategies to get the most out of students after school until the end of the academic year. The areas of focus will be how to empower students, manage the workload, and emotions, as well as provide strategies on getting and staying on task with class work, homework, and testing.

## SYNERGY Conference (cont'd)

For a special deal, register 4 staff members to receive the 5<sup>th</sup> registration free. Book your hotel room by contacting the Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Center Hotel at 1-800-242-6556. Be sure to mention "NC CAP SYNERGY" when booking to receive the low \$124 rate for rooms that can accommodate up to 4 people at this low rate. Rooms will be released to the general public on January 30, so book your room today to secure the special rate.

Registration forms and vendor applications are available on [www.nccap.net](http://www.nccap.net). For more information, contact Katie Biggerstaff at [kbiggerstaff@ncforum.org](mailto:kbiggerstaff@ncforum.org) or (919) 781-6833 ext 132.

---

The *Friday Report* is published weekly by the Public School Forum of NC and is distributed to Forum Board members, legislators active in education policy, the press, and Forum subscribers. Archived editions can be found at [www.ncforum.org/doc](http://www.ncforum.org/doc).