

The Public School Forum's Friday Report

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NC Leads Nation in National Board Certification

North Carolina has 2,277 newly-certified National Board teachers currently working in its public school classrooms according to the 2010 certification results just released by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). This newest cohort of credentialed teachers brings the state's total number of National Board Certified Teachers to 17,957, the largest number of certified teachers in the nation.

Nationally, 8,639 teachers and counselors received National Board Certification, bringing the national total to 91,013. North Carolina accounts for almost one-fifth of the nation's National Board Certified Teachers. Florida is the next closest state with 13,532 followed by South Carolina (7,784), Washington (5,232) and California (4,913).

In addition, six North Carolina public school districts placed in the Top 20 districts nationally for the total number of National Board Certified Teachers: Wake County Schools is first with 2,031, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is fourth with 1,738, Guilford County Schools is 10th with 674, Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools is 16th with 477, Buncombe County Schools is 19th with 437 and New Hanover County Schools is 20th with 402.

North Carolina teachers have pursued National Board Certification since 1994. North Carolina supports teachers pursuing National Board Certification by providing low-interest loans to pay the \$2,500 assessment fee and three paid release days from normal teacher responsibilities to develop their portfolios. Also, the State Board of Education awards a North Carolina teaching license to out-of-state teachers who are employed in North Carolina and who possess National Board Certification.

Governor Urges Policymakers to Take Bold Action

During a meeting of current and newly elected lawmakers, Governor Perdue this week urged members of the North Carolina General Assembly to take three bold steps to reform how the legislature does business. Gov. Perdue's proposals to the legislature were based on bills that had been filed in previous sessions. She asked them to:

1. Limit the length of time the General Assembly can remain in session. Long sessions would last 90 days and short sessions would end after 45 days. Those limits would save taxpayers millions that could be used to save jobs for teachers and essential state services.

Governor Urges Policymakers (cont'd)

2. Pass a Voter Empowerment Act to establish an independent redistricting commission that would ensure fairness as legislative maps are defined – another idea that many members of the legislature have supported for years.

3. On her first day in office, Gov. Perdue signed an executive order to better define public records, increase transparency, and give taxpayers more access to government information. The General Assembly should review any statutes which regulate accountability for the legislative branch, and make those regulations consistent with her executive order.

To read Gov. Perdue's speech, [click here](#).

NCASA Announces Leadership Changes

The North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) this week announced a change in leadership for the organization that serves over 6,000 school administrators across the state. Bill McNeal, a nationally recognized leader in public education, has announced his plans to retire from his position as NCASA's executive director, effective June 30, 2011. NCASA's board of directors has named Dr. Larry Price, superintendent of Wilson County Schools, as the organization's new executive director, effective July 1.

Dr. Price has served as the superintendent of Wilson County Schools since 1998. He is past president of NCASA and the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association. He was named North Carolina's superintendent of the year in 2006 and was a finalist for the national honor the same year. Price said he is honored to be chosen as NCASA's new executive director. "I am thrilled to represent North Carolina's public school administrators in shaping education policy and legislation and serving the needs of NCASA members. I look forward to helping our school administrators provide the bold, visionary and effective leadership required to guide our schools and school districts in these difficult times."

In addition, NCASA has announced that Ann McColl has accepted a new position as legislative liaison for the State Board of Education and has submitted her resignation as NCASA and NCSSA legal counsel effective December 31. Ann's many years of hard work and service to NCASA and NCSSA will serve her well in her new role dealing with critical issues for k-12 public education.

Wake County Under Federal Scrutiny

Federal officials from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights have the Wake County Schools plan to move to neighborhood student assignment patterns under scrutiny as they investigate a complaint filed against the district. The list of information called for by the investigation team ranges from bussing assignment data to socio-economic breakdowns of student populations in schools. This is the second time in recent history that Wake's new plans have been under scrutiny. Earlier this fall a similar investigation was conducted by the accreditation agency which received similar complaints. Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools will also be under investigation for similar complaints related to their plan to close inner-city schools. The U.S. Office of Civil Rights is slated to review the Charlotte plan in the near future.

Senate Names Budget Chairs

New Senate Leader Phil Berger announced yesterday that Senators Richard Stevens of Wake County, Neal Hunt of Wake County and Peter Brunsetter of Forsyth County will be the Co-Chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee in the upcoming Session. Senator Stevens had been widely speculated to be an Appropriations Committee leader given his budget background as County Manager for Wake County; he also has been heavily involved in education issues since coming into office. He currently is a Co-Chair of the Senate Education Committee.

Governor Considering New Revenue Measures

In a wide-ranging interview with the capitol press, Governor Perdue ruled out tax increases but said that she was examining other revenue generating measures. Under consideration are moves that would privatize the state's liquor stores and open the doors to video poker games. A study is currently under way that is expected to give the Governor projections on how much the State could receive if it turned over state-run liquor stores to private interests. In light of recent controversy around salaries paid to local officials running the state-owned stores and questionable gifts from those in the business, the proposal might gain traction. Poker games, however, are another issue with strong opposition already staked out against adding more gambling options.

Weaver Rogers Policy Institute Established at NASBE

To commemorate the life and work of Weaver B. Rogers, Jr. (October 5, 1946-March 23, 2008), the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) has established the Weaver Rogers Policy Institute as a part of its endowment.

Dr. Weaver B. Rogers, Jr., was well known in educational circles for his work at the Department of Public Instruction and with the North Carolina State Board of Education. He began his career as a middle school teacher in Cumberland County, and after graduate studies in tests and measurement Weaver was a research and evaluation consultant at the regional center in Jacksonville, NC. Promoted to a position in Federal Programs, he moved to the Raleigh office in 1977 and worked in various positions in the Department of Public Instruction. In 1988 Weaver assumed the role of the first Executive Director of the State Board of Education from which he retired in 1998.

In his retirement he worked for the National Association of State Boards of Education and as Special Assistant to Martin Lancaster, President of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS), who says Weaver's "role as liaison between the four educational governing boards was a key to encouraging a seamlessness which had not existed before. I owe so much to him for the knowledge of a life-time which he brought to the table and the research he did on education policy which pointed the community colleges and the other boards in the right direction."

The Weaver Rogers Policy Institute at NASBE will continue Weaver's work by supporting one study group every year. State board members from across the country will collaborate to examine a topic of critical importance to state, federal, and local education leaders. The Weaver Rogers Policy Institute will enable study group members to:

- Hear from experts in the field
- Examine recent research findings
- Review best-practice case studies
- Develop a report with specific policy recommendations that can guide state boards of education and other interested policymakers

Weaver was a strong advocate for research-based studies as the foundation for the development of good educational policy. Thus, the establishment of the Weaver Rogers Policy Institute by NASBE's Board of Directors is a fitting tribute to his life and to his work as a consummate professional in the field of education.

You may support the Weaver Rogers Policy Institute by making a tax-deductible contribution made payable to Weaver Rogers Policy Institute. Mail it to NASBE, 2121 Crystal Drive, Suite #350, Arlington VA 22202.

SAS CEO Jim Goodnight Receives Vision Award

Jim Goodnight is hardly a household name, but he runs one of the most successful and important companies in the tech industry. Goodnight's been at the helm of business analytics software vendor SAS since it was incorporated in 1976. Since then, the company has grown revenues for 34 consecutive years through five recessions, in the process becoming the largest private software vendor, with more than \$2 billion in annual revenues. He has long resisted the lure of a blockbuster IPO, preferring the control that staying private gives the company.



Jim Goodnight, SAS
digits.

Among its customers are retailers who use SAS to find profitable places to put stores and products within those stores. The company's also won over a growing number of financial institutions that use SAS to detect money laundering, as mandated by the USA Patriot Act and Basel II. They also use it to sniff out fraud and to score credit applications. And the company plans to stay at the forefront of data mining by plowing nearly a quarter of its revenues back into research and development every year.

SAS has accomplished all that while perennially making the list of best places to work, even topping the list at *Fortune* this year. The company has an almost unheard of employee turnover rate in the low single

Recently Internetnews.com award Goodnight a CEO Vision Award, awarded to the top ten most visionary tech CEOs for 2010. "Innovation is the key to success in this business, and creativity fuels innovation," says Goodnight. "Creativity is especially important to SAS because software is a product of the mind. As such, 95 percent of my assets drive out the gate every evening. It's my job to maintain a work environment that keeps those people coming back every morning. The creativity they bring to SAS is a competitive advantage for us."

N.C. Launches Program Preparing Students for Global Economy

This week, the state's top education and business leaders announced the development of the nation's first-ever Global Schools Network, an alliance of schools, organizations and businesses committed to innovative approaches to international education.

The N.C. Global Schools Network, developed through a partnership between the N.C. State Board of Education, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the N.C. Department of Commerce and the N.C. Business Committee for Education, will focus on creating schools and districts with a deep commitment to international education and global competency.

Preparing Students for Global Economy (cont'd)

The N.C. Global Schools Network supports Gov. Bev Perdue's *Career and College: Ready, Set, Go!* initiative aimed at dramatically improving the state's high school graduation rate and preparation for two- and four-year colleges and technical training programs.

North Carolina was selected as the first state in the nation to launch the Global Schools Network based on its strong international business community, its stable cohort of J-1 exchange teachers in school districts across the state and its historic commitment to and leadership in international education.

The N.C. Global Schools Network will utilize the strengths of the implementing partners to work toward providing an authentic international education for all North Carolina students. Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, seven local education agencies or school districts will be identified to partner with the State of North Carolina and implementing partners to establish a formal Global Schools Network plan. This effort will include at least one district in each of the state's seven economic development regions with the intention of including an additional eight districts by 2014, for a total of 15.

Selected districts will commit to results-oriented programs that enhance global awareness, authentic language learning opportunities, global science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and international exchange. On Aug. 5, 2010, Cumberland County Schools was designated as the district demonstration model and the first district member of the Global Schools Network. For more information about the N.C. Global Schools Network, visit www.globalschoolsnetwork.org.

Nomination/Application Period for Class of 2012 Kenan Fellows Now Open

The Kenan Fellows Program is accepting applications for Fellowships through January 31, 2011. K-12 public school teachers from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. School administrators, community leaders, parents of students, and former Kenan Fellows may nominate candidates online. For more information on how to nominate a candidate or to apply, visit the Kenan Fellows Program website: www.kenanfellows.org.

Public school teachers from all school districts in North Carolina are eligible to apply. The Kenan Fellows Program for Curriculum and Leadership Development, established in 2001, grew out of a community effort to address math and science teacher retention and recruitment. Classroom teachers selected as Kenan Fellows represent the most outstanding and committed educators across the state. As Fellows, they engage in partnerships with distinguished scientists, university faculty and professional educators to develop innovative curricula for use in classrooms all across N.C.

Probe of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

The U.S. Department of Education is looking into civil rights complaints over the closing of eight Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools. The agency sent notice of the investigation to Superintendent Peter Gorman this week. Seven people filed complaints based on a November vote by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board to close eight schools that serve mostly black, Hispanic and low-income students, part of a package of budget-cutting changes for 2011-12. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools officials acknowledge the cuts disproportionately affect minority families, but say the decision was based on low enrollment and/or academic weakness, not race.

The department's Office of Civil Rights does not reveal who filed complaints, but families held a rally at Waddell High, one of the schools that will close, urging people to file such reports. "Opening a complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the case," education department spokesman Jim Bradshaw said in an e-mail. "Rather, the office is merely a neutral fact-finder. It will collect and analyze all relevant evidence from the parties involved in the case to develop its findings."

If investigators find violations of federal civil-rights laws, they try to negotiate a resolution. In a worst-case scenario, a violation that can't be resolved could lead to CMS losing federal money or facing a Justice Department investigation. Wake County Schools is also being investigated, based on complaints that its new student assignment plan violates civil-rights laws. The Wake board recently decided to scrap a plan that uses family income to promote school diversity, moving toward a neighborhood-based plan that is expected to create schools with higher concentrations of minority and low-income students. (Ann Doss Helms, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 12/14/10)

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