

The Public School Forum's Friday Report

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February 3, 2012



Cynthia Ann O'Neal, a member of the Forum's NC CAP advisory board, unexpectedly passed away on January 25 at the age of 37. She served as General Counsel in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Memorial services will be held today, February 3, at 11:00am at First Baptist Church of Raleigh (101 South Wilmington Street).

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be sent to the Cynthia O'Neal Memorial Scholarship Fund established with the N.C. Center for Women in Public Service, PO Box 27421, Raleigh, NC 27611. Additionally, expressions of love may be sent to the O'Neal Family, 620 Richardson Road, Zebulon, NC 27597. For a complete obituary [click here](#)

State News

SBE Releases Guiding Principles for the 2012 General Assembly Session

During the February 2nd meeting of the State Board of Education (SBE), Dr. Bill Harrison, chairman, addressed the public concerning guiding principles for legislation for the 2012 session of the General Assembly. During this discussion he charged Ann McColl, Legislative Director, with moving the priorities forward to members of the General Assembly. The State Board of Education insists that education continue to be the top priority on the legislative agenda and that it be the final area to be considered for cuts during budget deliberations. In collaboration with the General Assembly the SBE encourages these principles:

1. Maintain a focus on success for all students.
2. Provide the infrastructure necessary to support student success and the operation of public schools.
3. Ensure governance that is transparent, accountable, and effective.
4. Use innovative, sound approaches to crafting reforms and addressing economic challenges.
5. Provide responsible local control and flexibility.

Dr. Harrison reiterated the words of State Superintendent June Atkinson indicating that public education in North Carolina is not broken but in need of ongoing remodeling. To assist with this remodeling process the SBE is looking to the General Assembly for support in strengthening the public education system in North Carolina as well as ensuring connections among all entities focused on the public education system. For the 2012 General Assembly Session the SBE lists the following priorities:

SBE Releases Guiding Principle (cont'd)

Strengthen the system:

1. Provide flexibility for structural innovations
2. Provide flexibility and support for innovations in student learning
3. PreK as part of the P-12 system
4. Sufficient funding and resources

Connections:

1. Charter schools as part of the integrated model
2. Virtual learning as part of the integrated model
3. Higher education as part of the integrate model

Further information concerning legislative updates from the State Board of Education may be found at <http://legislative.ncpublicschools.gov/>

SBE Hears Consolidated Report on School Crime, Suspensions, and Dropouts

During the February 2nd meeting of the SBE the Program Monitoring and Support Division of DPI presented the 2010-2011 Consolidated Report on school crime, suspensions, and dropouts. The full report will be submitted to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The report includes annual data concerning school crime, acts of violence in schools, suspensions, expulsions, alternative learning placements, the use of corporal punishment in schools, as well as dropout events and rate.

Data from the annual reports concerning all areas listed above indicate that efforts to reduce the number of school crime incidents, the number of suspensions/expulsions, and the number of students dropping out are making a positive difference. While there was a slight increase in the overall number of reportable acts of crime and violence in grades K-13 (0.4% increase) high schools saw a 6.0% decrease in the number of reportable acts. Short-term suspensions of K-13 students declined from 277,206 (09-10) to 266,488 (10-11) while long-term suspensions of K-13 students declined from 3,368 (09-10) to 2,621 (10-11). Furthermore, grades 9-13 report a dropout rate of 3.43 which is a 12.2% decrease from the 09-10 academic year. For further details and the full report, visit <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/research/dropout/reports/>

NC Receives a “D” for Science Standards

The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a Washington, DC based think-tank issued a report on state science standards on Tuesday. The report is entitled *The State of State Science Standards 2012*. It is the Fordham Institute’s third such review but first since 2005 and focuses on two main areas: “content and rigor,” and “clarity and specificity.”

Nationwide, 27 states, including North Carolina received either “D’s” or “F’s.” Only 5 states (California, Indiana, Massachusetts, South Carolina, and Virginia) and the District of Columbia received “A’s.” Of those states receiving the highest marks, the Fordham Institute’s Senior Director, Kathleen Porter-Magee points to California and the District of Columbia as potential models for other states to base improvements upon. “Those standards in both cases were very comprehensive... they were clear, free from jargon, and really provided the kind of roadmap that teachers, curriculum developers, and assessment developers need.”

Fordham Institute officials pointed out in a release that even though a state received an overall grade, the overall grade may not reflect where the state stands with regards to specific areas of the science curriculum. A quick review of North Carolina’s report shows that Fordham Institute reviewers generally found that our state standards, “lack detail that compromises the standards’ utility as an educational framework,” and that certain standards were “poorly developed, confusing, or misleading.”

The following is an excerpt from the opening of the “Content and Rigor” section of the report:

“The North Carolina standards are crippled by their overemphasis on generality at the expense of concrete examples. And with so few details, the occasional gross errors and confusing statements stand out all the more starkly. The material does have strong moments: For example, the early grades in physical science and chemistry, as well as the life science section, have merit. But overall, the outcome is poor, and there is no reason to hope that a solid curriculum could emerge from the mess.”

The remainder of the report is in no way more flattering than that excerpt. However, the full report does go into detail about the reviewers’ specific problems with portions of the curriculum, and examples are cited throughout which may help to correct any issues that our own education officials agree need to be addressed.

To access the full Fordham Institute study, visit the institute’s [website](#). Once you reach the site, look for the *State of State Science Standards 2012*, then, click on [North Carolina](#) in the “state profiles” section to view a .pdf file of the North Carolina report.

Regional Principals of the Year Named

(NCDPI Press Release)

Eight outstanding public school principals have been selected as regional Wells Fargo North Carolina Principals of the Year and will now compete for the state title of 2012 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year. The winner will succeed the 2011 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year Rob Jackson. Jackson is principal of Cuthbertson High (Union County Schools).

2012 regional principals of the year are:

- North Central Region: Drew Cook, Garner High (Wake County Schools);
- Northeast Region: Clay Wagner, Riverside High (Martin County Schools);
- Northwest Region: Kelly Withers, Jesse Carson High (Rowan-Salisbury Schools);
- Southeast Region: Glenn Reed, Blue Creek Elementary (Onslow County Schools);
- Southwest Region: Hilda Batts, AT Allen Elementary (Cabarrus County Schools);
- Sandhills/South Central Region: Sara Bigley, Pinehurst Elementary, (Moore County Schools);
- Piedmont-Triad/Central Region: Patrice Faison, Oak Hill Elementary (Guilford County Schools); and
- West Region: Brad Teague, East Rutherford Middle (Rutherford County Schools).

"Congratulations to these eight talented school leaders who have gone above and beyond to prepare students for the next grade and life after high school graduation," said State Superintendent June Atkinson. "Thanks also to the Wells Fargo Foundation for their faithful sponsorship of this program, which allows us to recognize the outstanding administrators who work so hard on behalf of North Carolina's almost 1.5 million public school students."

"At Wells Fargo, we believe every child deserves a quality education and it is extraordinary educators like these eight principals that make this possible," said Juan Austin, Wells Fargo's Community Affairs Manager. "We are proud to support this program and to celebrate the men and women who are making a positive difference in our schools and communities. We thank them for their tireless commitment and the impact they have on our students."

A State Selection Committee will review the portfolios of the eight regional winners and visit each candidate's school campus. Results of these site visits, portfolio assessments and personal interviews will be used to determine the 2012 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year. The recipient will be announced on April 5 in Raleigh during a luncheon sponsored by Wells Fargo to honor the regional winners. The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year will receive a \$3,000 check for personal use and/or professional development and a \$3,000 check for his or her school to purchase materials or other equipment. The winner also will serve a one-year term as advisor to the State Board of Education. The eight regional winners each will receive \$1,000 for personal use and \$1,000 for their schools.

Principals of the Year (cont'd)

Since the program began in 1984, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and The Wells Fargo Foundation have recognized 32 Principals of the Year, and 210 regional recipients. In addition, The Wells Fargo Foundation has provided more than \$1 million in cash awards to these individuals. In its 28th year, the program provides a unique opportunity to recognize outstanding principals from North Carolina public schools.

School Showdown

A showdown over a proposed charter school in Durham may only be a preview of what is to come as North Carolina enters a new era of charter schools. Durham officials and lawmakers representing the county have taken a stand against the proposed school, Research Triangle High School, arguing it will siphon money from traditional public schools and lead to further racial segregation. The Durham school board has sent a strongly worded resolution to the State Board of Education opposing the school, one of nine proposed charters seeking fast-track approval to open in the fall. Durham's state House delegation has also written to the board. "We cannot in good conscience support the approval of this charter at this time," they said in a letter to the board sent Monday. Durham already has eight charter schools serving more than 3,000 students, said a letter from school Superintendent Eric Becoats. That represents an 8.7 percent market share of students – the highest in the state. About \$10 million of local funding goes to charters, and expansion already planned by charters in Durham will mean an additional loss of \$11 million in local funding annually. After lawmakers agreed last year to lift the state's 100-school cap on charters schools, Durham leaders fear another surge. "There is a potential for just a profound negative impact on our school system here in Durham," said Heidi Carter, vice chairwoman of the Durham school board. The state board meets today to discuss charter applications. A vote is expected in March. The dispute in Durham may be just the beginning. Although just nine schools statewide are up for approval for the fall, more are expected to seek permission to operate next year. Charter schools receive public money but operate independently of elected school boards.

Research Triangle High is proposed as a school focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) that will serve 420 students. Durham leaders say that by locating near Research Triangle Park, the charter will target RTP employees and draw mainly white, affluent parents. "We just believe this charter school in particular is going to compete with some of the innovative programs that we're trying to get off the ground in a successful way," Carter said. Pamela Blizzard, who heads the planning for the proposed new school, declined to comment Tuesday. But in a letter to the state board, she wrote that such criticisms stem from a lack of awareness of the school's plans. "RTHS is strongly committed to enrolling a student population that represents the diversity of the broad Triangle region in all its forms," Blizzard wrote.

School Showdown (cont'd)

State Board of Education Chairman Bill Harrison said the arguments about RTHS competing with Durham schools would not be reason enough to vote against the charter. Harrison added that Durham may be raising legitimate issues about whether a concentration of charters in one county could hurt traditional schools' ability to offer a quality education. The board will have to grapple with that question in the future, he said.

World View March Seminars

LATIN AMERICA AND NORTH CAROLINA

March 27 - 28, 2012 (1½ days) Co-sponsored by the UNC-Duke Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies & The Jack and Mary McCall Foundation

This seminar offers insights into Latin America and support for K-12 and community college educators, from all grade-levels and subject areas, facing the challenges and opportunities of our growing immigrant student population. Help your Hispanic/Latino students succeed in school by learning more about the region, critical issues facing Latino students, and new teaching strategies to support students and their families.

COMPLEXITY AND VIBRANCY OF AFRICA

March 28 - 29, 2012 (1½ days) Co-sponsored by the UNC African Studies Center

This program will engage K-16 educators from all grade levels and disciplines in learning about an important world region. With over 45 countries, several independent island nations, and more than 1 billion people, Africa is a continent rich in diversity. The program will explore global issues related to this continent and strategies for integrating African themes into teaching.

Location: The Friday Center for Continuing Education, UNC at Chapel Hill

Registration: For North Carolina educators, registration is \$175 per person per seminar or \$325 for both seminars. A team of 4 is \$600 (save \$100) per seminar. A team is comprised of 4 or more individuals from a school, college, or LEA. Only \$150 for each additional team member per seminar. For out-of-state educators, registration is \$275 per person per seminar.

Credits: 1.5 CEUs or 15 professional development contact hours offered per seminar.

World View March Seminars (cont'd)

REGISTER A TEAM OR FOR BOTH SEMINARS AND SAVE!
WORLDVIEW.UNC.EDU/REGISTRATION

PROGRAM, REGISTRATION, & HOTEL INFORMATION AT
WORLDVIEW.UNC.EDU/PROGRAMS/SPRING-SEMINARS
OR PLEASE CALL 919/962-9264.

[RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!](#)

Institute for Emerging Issues Calls for Help!

On Monday, the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) sounded a statewide call for assistance from the public to help determine winners of a student prize competition. The IEI wants North Carolinians to vote for winners of the second annual Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation. The two winning teams – one from the high school age category and one from the college age category – will each receive \$5,000 which will be used to put their ideas into action. The winning teams will be announced on Tuesday February 7th at the Emerging Issues Forum, where more than 1,000 of the state's leaders will gather in Raleigh to learn more about Generation Z, and discuss their effect on our state, our workforce, and our economic competitiveness.

This year's Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation challenged North Carolina students to unleash their creativity and work collaboratively to come up with an innovative way to increase the state's high school graduation rate. Nearly 70 teams of high school and college students from across the state, from both public and private institutions submitted innovative ideas to help friends, classmates, and peers attain the foundation for earning a living wage, a high school diploma. Of these submissions, five teams from both high school and college categories were announced as finalists in December.

High school finalist teams:

- "Operation Don't Quit" from East Burke High School
- "A.I.M." from Greene Central High School
- "Step Up" from Jordan Lake School of the Arts
- "Studio Lounge" from Richmond Senior High School
- "Kindles for Second Graders" from Stanly Early College

Institute for Emerging Issues Calls for Help! (cont'd)

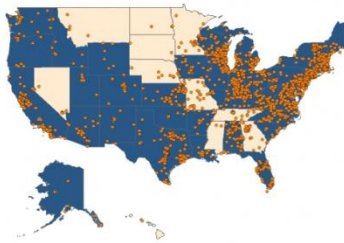
College finalist teams:

- “IGNITE” from Duke University
- “Open Hardware Makerspace” from NC State University
- “LinkedUp” from UNC-Greensboro
- “S.T.E.N.C.I.L.” from UNC-Chapel Hill
- “Digital Story Telling” from UNC-Wilmington and N.C. A&T State University

Voting began Monday, January 30th, and is hosted on IEI’s [website](#). Individuals can view short videos created by the finalists, and then vote for the idea they think has the most potential in each age category. Individuals are allowed to cast one vote per email address for each age category.

National News

Digital Learning Day



On Tuesday, February 1st, the nation celebrated the first ever “Digital Learning Day.” The event was proposed and sponsored by the Alliance for Excellent Education, a Washington, D.C. based education policy and advocacy organization. It is estimated that over 2 million K-12 students, 15,000+ teachers, and several hundred school districts in at least 39 states (see the map above) participated in events across the nation. The Alliance for Excellent Education provided toolkits to help teachers plan their own local programs. The idea was to encourage the innovative use of technology by trying something new, showcasing success, kicking off project-based learning, or focusing on how digital tools can help improve student outcomes.

The “main event” of the day was a live “National Town Hall” webinar hosted by the Alliance for Education Excellence, which featured FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Prior to the town hall, teachers around the country were able to log-in and view, with their students, a web-cast featuring a moderated discussion of video footage of innovation in action looking at leadership, instruction, innovation, every subject area, and effective teaching.

Washington State House Bill Worth Watching

North Carolinians who have paid attention to the debate over education funding over the past nearly two decades, might want to keep an eye on a measure that is on the table out in Washington State. Earlier this month, the state Supreme Court ruled that Washington State has failed to properly pay for education, violating its constitutional duty. In an attempt to remedy the situation, legislators in the state House have proposed House Bill 2533.

HB 2533 would prioritize K-12 education funding above all other state obligations. Language from the opening section of the actual bill reads as follows:

“Under Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution, it is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all of Washington's children. According to the state supreme court, this constitutional provision requires that the state must amply provide for the education of all Washington children as the state's first and highest priority before any other state programs or operations. For these reasons, it is the intent of the legislature to require that all appropriations for K-12 basic education, together with appropriations for other K-12 education programs, be enacted into law before the legislature takes executive action on other omnibus appropriations legislation.”

The bill has passed first reading and has been referred to the House Education Appropriations and Oversight Committee where a public hearing was held to take comments on the bill at 8 a.m. this past Tuesday. As you might imagine, there was a great deal of support voiced for the bill. Even some critics of the bill voiced general support for the idea of prioritizing education though they said it left out, as “separate,” things like early learning.

In case you are wondering, the legislature in Washington State is controlled by Democrats. They hold the majority in both the state House, and Senate. However, HB 2533 is a bill that has bipartisan support and in fact is being pushed mostly by House Republicans who have been critical over the way the Democratic majority have handled education funding for the past several years.

The bill is co-sponsored by 21 Republicans and 7 Democrats including several key members of the appropriations committee. Leaders on both sides of the aisle agree that though the bill doesn't necessarily mean more money for education, it does mean that (if passed) there will be more stability in the education budget, and a more focused approach to budgeting for the state's other departments and agencies.

Local Boards of Education Support Teaching Fellows

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission and staff continue to receive copies of resolutions passed by local boards of education in support of the restoration of the NC Teaching Fellows Program. NEW RESOLUTIONS received since last week's *Friday Report* are included in the list in **BOLD** type.

Alamance-Burlington Board of Education, Jackie Cole, Chair; Dr. Lillie Cox, Supt.
Alexander County Board of Education, Josh Lail, Chair; Jack Hole, Supt.
Avery County Board of Education, John L. Greene, Chair; David Burleson, Supt.
Brunswick County Board of Education, Shirley Babson, Chair; Dr. Edward Pruden, Supt.
Cumberland County Board of Education, Carrie Sutton, Chair; Dr. Frank Till, Supt.
Durham Public Schools Board of Ed, Minnie Forte-Brown, Chair, Dr. Eric Becoats, Supt.
Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, Ricky Browder, Chair; Dr. Allan Smith, Supt.
Elkin City Board of Education, James Freeman, Chair; Dr. Randy Bledsoe, Supt.
Greene County Board of Education, Patricia Lee Adams, Chair; Dr. Patrick Miller, Supt.
Guilford County Board of Education, Alan W. Duncan, Chair; Dr. Maurice Green, Supt.
Hoke County Board of Education, Hank Richards, Chair; Dr. Freddie Williamson, Supt.
Iredell-Statesville Schools Bd. of Ed., Dr. David Cash, Chair; Brady Johnson, Supt.
Jackson County Board of Education, Ken Henke, Chair; Dr. Michael Murray, Supt.
Martin County Board of Education, Gene Scott, Chair; Dr. Ron Melchiorre, Supt.
McDowell County Board of Ed., Russell Neighbors, Chair; Dr. Ira Trollinger, Supt.
Mt. Airy City Schools Board of Ed., Wendy Carriker, Chair; Dr. Greg Little, Supt.
Onslow County Board of Education, Pat Thomas, Chair; Dr. Kathy Spencer, Supt.
Perquimans Co. Bd. of Ed., Arlene Yates, Chair; Dr. Dwayne Stallings, Supt.
Person County Board of Educ., Gordon Powell, Chair; Dr. Larry Cartner, Supt.
Pamlico County Board of Ed, Reggie Hawkins, Chair; Dr. Wanda Dawson, Supt.
Richmond County Board of Education, Wiley L. Mabe, Chair; Dr. George Norris, Supt.
**Roanoke Rapids Graded School District Board of Education, Jay Carlisle, Chair;
Dr. Dennis Sawyer, Supt.**
Robeson County Board of Education, Dr. Jo Ann Chavis Lowery; Dr. Johnny Hunt, Supt.
Surry County Board of Education, Sexton E. Coe, Chair; Dr. Ashley Hinson, Jr., Supt.
Vance County Board of Education, Gloria J. White, Chair; Dr. Ronald Gregory, Supt.
Watauga County Board of Ed., Deborah H. Miller, Chair; Dr. Marty Hemric, Supt.
Whiteville City Board of Education, James DiMuzio, Chair; Dr. C. T. Hager, Supt.
**Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Bd. of Ed., Donnie Lambeth, Chair; Dr. Donald
Martin, Supt.**

Dr. Mike Priddy, retired superintendent and NC Teaching Fellows Commission Chair stated, "Having had the privilege of hiring the first Teaching Fellows graduate and many more since then, I personally know their value to our children, classrooms, and schools. I also know that every principal, superintendent, and school board member in NC appreciates the quality that is so very predictable. Even though there are many important, even competing, educational priorities, we must remain diligent in seeking support for the re-instatement of the Teaching Fellows Program."

Nominations Open for Jay Robinson Leadership Awards

Nominations for the Forum's Jay Robinson Leadership Awards are now open. The original award was established by the Public School Forum Board of Directors in honor of Dr. Jay Robinson, former Superintendent Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, UNC Vice President and Chair of the State Board of Education. In 2011 the award was expanded to two awards; Exemplary Educator with statewide impact in K-12 education and Exemplary Leadership in Public Service with statewide impact in K-12 education. The awards may be given to anyone who has displayed innovative, creative, effective leadership for the public schools of North Carolina.

The nominations must be postmarked by March 1, 2012. Nominations postmarked after that date and nominations delivered in person will not be accepted. The award ceremony will be held on June 11, 2012 at the Raleigh Crabtree Marriott Hotel. Admission will be by invitation only. The honor includes a cash award sponsored by BB&T.

To obtain a nomination form, contact Pat Franklin (pfranklin@ncforum.org) at 919-781-6833. You may also use the form in the Winter 2011 edition of the *Forum Report which was released over the holidays*.

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.