Welcome to the Southeastern North Carolina Dropout Prevention monthly Newsletter. We will be highlighting dropout prevention activities and accomplishments in the region. So please send us your stories, highlights, accomplishments and upcoming events. Additionally, we will give you some notice to local and national events, resources, funding and research.

News and Events

- The Dropout Prevention Coalition in collaboration with the UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance and the NCPTA is sponsoring the Emerging Leaders Conference. Parents, educators and individuals who care about students are invited to attend! Participants will strengthen their leadership skills and engage in empowering networking opportunities. Where: UNCW- Watson School of Education, When: Saturday, March 17, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. [http://ncpta.org/pta/EmergingLeaders.html](http://ncpta.org/pta/EmergingLeaders.html) $10 registration includes lunch and materials. Conference online registration is open! DEADLINE is Friday, March 9, so please hurry!

- Working with the Black Male Student . . . strategies that work! Southeast Education Alliance in collaboration with UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance Presents: Carlton Ashby, Effective Strategies for Helping African American Males to Succeed: K-12 This conference will be held March 23 9:00- 3:30 at Landfall Country Club in Wilmington. Register Now! Register with bsharpe@jamessprunt.edu or rhodesd@uncw.edu

- 2012 What Works: Innovative Models and Best Practices in Education
Discover what’s happening in our partnership districts in 2011-2012! A presentation series sponsored by the UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance
Time: 5:00 — 6:00 p.m. UNCW Education Building Room 387
Thursday, March 29, 2012: Topic: Strategies for Supporting ESL Students
Thursday, April 19, 2012: Topic: Anti-Bullying Initiatives in Our Schools
Presentations by teachers and administrators in our partnership districts! Register online today! [http://www.uncw.edu/ed/whatworks/](http://www.uncw.edu/ed/whatworks/) For additional information, please contact: Somer Lewis, Teacher-in-Residence 910-962-7669 • lewiss@uncw.edu

- The Dropout Prevention Coalition and UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance invite you to be a presenter at the Dropout Prevention Symposium! School Districts or Community Agencies can share what is working to Prevent School Dropouts! Many of you have had wonderful successes this year and we would love to hear about them. Submit your title and 25 word proposal to Deloris Rhodes rhodesd@uncw.edu or John Shannon John.Shannon@onslow.k12.nc.us to reserve your slot. Deadline for Proposals: April 1

**Save the Date!!** April 26th – UNCW- Watson School of Education- Room 162- 1:30 -4:00

*We hope to have everyone attend!*
**Chick-fil-A Leadercast** is a one-day leadership event broadcast LIVE from Atlanta on Friday May 4, 9AM-5PM. Renowned leaders Tim Tebow, Roland Fryer, John D. Maxwell, Andy Stanley, Soledad O’Brien will speak on leadership issues you face every day. Sponsored by: Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church and the Dropout Prevention Coalition. Held at the University of NC-Wilmington Watson School of Education Building, Wilmington, NC. REGISTRATION: Before Sunday, March 25 $60.00; After Sunday, March 25 $75.00. Call the church office (910) 763-6308 or go to [www.chickfilaleadercast.com](http://www.chickfilaleadercast.com) for more information.

**Regional Resources**

- **We have a new Website!** Please check it out at: [http://uncw.edu/ed/Dropout/](http://uncw.edu/ed/Dropout/)

**Regional Success Stories**

- We had a nice turn out at the **24th Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum!** The Dropout Prevention Coalition was a co-sponsor of this national conference held in Myrtle Beach February 19-21. [http://www.dropoutprevention.org/home](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/home) Approximately 30 Coalition members attended and several gave presentations. Some presentations are posted on the Dropout Prevention Coalition website.

- Several of the coalition members presented a successful parent program to over 40 participants called **“Reviving OUR community, OUR school and OUR future through education!”** The Parent Liaison Initiative delivered what parents need to improve education outcomes for their children and become proactive and effective education advocates. The meeting was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 from 6-8. The illustrious panel consisted of the following presenters: Pastor Ricky and Natalie Reid, Catrecia McCoy Bowman, Lt. Yolanda Sparrow, Pamela Elaine Johnson, Dr. Donyell Roseboro, and Frankie Roberts. The next session will be held on Tuesday, March 27th. Contact coalition member Catrecia McCoy Bowman for more information at [cbowman@wha.net](mailto:cbowman@wha.net)

- Coalition members Pam Johnson and Claudia Brokow-Buer along with other highly motivated individuals recently completed their first family program at the Creekwood North/Turnkey subdivision. Pam, the leader for **NC PTA FACT TEAM INITIATIVE and** her group were instrumental in making this program come into fruition. The membership consisted of inclusive and diverse family, school and community members. Together they brought to the neighborhood a 4 week model of fun ways for parents and communities to be involved outside of the school setting. Several Dropout Prevention Coalition members were involved and supported this effort. Contact Pam Johnson for more information, 910.616-0927 or [gardenfairy@ec.rr.com](mailto:gardenfairy@ec.rr.com)

Did your school or organization have something you want to share with the coalition members? Let us know about it and we will spotlight you here! Contact: Pam Johnson at gardenfairy@ec.rr.com

Dropout Prevention Information

- **Middle School Model Re-thought.** Cincinnati.com addresses the age-old question, where to put the middle school students (grades 5-9) that has long stumped educators and policymakers. Read expert opinions on solutions to this old question.
- In light of President Obama’s State of the Union Address, NDPC author, Franklin Schargel, writes in the Huffington Post *“President Obama’s Plan to Raise the School Dropout Age Will Not Work.”*

Funding Sources

- [Ben & Jerry's Foundation: Grassroots Grant Program](#)
- [Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation: Grants to Help Inner-City Educators](#)
- [Ezra Jack Keats Minigrants](#) - March 15
- [Ecology/Environmental Science Teaching Award](#) - March 15
- [Pathways Within Roads to Reading](#) - March 30
- [Pathways Within Roads to Reading](#) - March 30
- [$25K and technology tools for outstanding educators](#) – March 31
- [Captain Planet Environment Grants](#) - May 31

For additional funding sources and national resources please check out the most recent newsletter at the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at: [http://www.dropoutprevention.org/e-newsletters](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/e-newsletters)

**NOTE:** Please send any items you want included in future newsletters to Pam Johnson at gardenfairy@ec.rr.com