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.

**Local Events Update**

- **Effective Strategies for Helping African American Males to Succeed: K-12** Presenter: Carlton Ashby. Southeast Education Alliance / UNCW Watson School of Education Outreach Alliance This conference was held on March 23 at Landfall Country Club in Wilmington. Over 100 teachers, administrators and school board members attended the conference on strategies to use in teaching black males. Dr. Kenneth Teitelbaum, Dean of Watson School of Education, UNCW, provided moving opening remarks about what we as educators can do to make a difference in race relations. Carlton Ashby gave inspirational and practical suggestions about improving relationships with African American students. He stated that the key is to make connections through relationships. He gave specific examples of how to improve relationships with students, their families, and the community. Some of his work is showcased at Education World: [http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/columnists/ashby/index.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/columnists/ashby/index.shtml)

- **Assessing and Building Resilience: The Key to Improving Academic Performance and Graduation Rates.** Presenter: Melissa Schlinger This April 11 presentation was attended by individuals from area school districts to learn about how academic resiliency is an important variable in dropout prevention. These academic reliance skills can be taught and research has shown that students can improve in school once they learn these skills:
  - Understanding of the relevance of education to achieving their life goals
  - Academic confidence
  - Connectedness to educators
  - Stress management skills
  - Balanced sense of well being
  - Intrinsic motivation

*It takes a village to raise a child…*  
**African proverb**

**Upcoming Advisory Board meeting May 22 at UNCW Watson School of Education**  
3:00 - 4:30p. Room 387  
Board members will receive more details soon!

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**MAY 2012**

May 22: Advisory Board Meeting  
June 18: WSE Junior Seahawk Academy Summer Program  

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http://www.scholarcentric.com/
Local Events Update Continued

- Chick-fil-A Leadercast
  The Leadercast was a one-day leadership event broadcast LIVE from Atlanta on May 4. Renowned leaders Tim Tebow, Roland Fryer, John D. Maxwell, Andy Stanley and Soledad O’Brien spoke on leadership issues. The Dropout Prevention Coalition and Warner Temple A. M. E. Zion Church joined local leaders, and 125,000 leaders from around the world at the 12th annual Leadercast event here in Wilmington. Over 60 individuals from the community attended to hear several inspirational speakers. Dr. Roland Fryer, an economist, Harvard University professor and CEO of the Education Innovation Laboratory, in particular provided good guidance for school success. He made the statement, “We know what to do, do we have the leadership courage to get it done?”

Save the Date
Watson School of Education
Junior Seahawk Academy Summer Program

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm; Friday 8:30am-1:00pm
(Closing Ceremony/Student Showcase, Friday, June 22th 11:00am-12:30pm)
Location: Education Building
Your support is needed this year!

Become an active volunteer or provide a donation to sponsor a child to attend the program. We have students from our partnership school districts that need sponsorship to attend the program this summer. The registration fee is $60 per child and lunch is provided.

Come out anytime during the week of the camp to lend a hand and encourage students. We invite you all to come and support the students during the Showcase on Friday. It is expected that students’ motivation and enthusiasm about considering college as a career choice will be impacted by being exposed to the UNCW campus and college culture.

Showcase Ceremony on Friday, June 22th 11:00am-12:30 pm.
Check out the Junior Seahawk Academy website: http://www.uncw.edu/ed/jrseahawk

Notes From Dr. Roland Fryer

Dr. Fryer provided some hard-hitting quotes, for example, "30% of US high school students can't pass the test to get into the armed services".

He also had great answers to questions from Soledad O'Brien. When she asked how to get past the fights (pro-charter/anti-charter... pro-union/anti-union) he said, "We need to elevate the dialogue and serve a higher purpose."

When Dr. Fryer was asked about a focus on EOG test scores and criticisms that schools "teach to the test" he said, effectively, that one-size-fits-all solutions don't work and offered an opinion that there's too much testing of top-tier students, and too little testing for the lower tiers. (He said in public schools teachers teach then test once in April/May. When kids fail they say, oh well, it's summer... He said it would be far more effective to test these kids every four weeks or so then adjust curriculum so they learn the material.)

Here are some of his suggestions:
- Spend more time in school
- Select the teachers carefully
- Use data to alter the pace of instruction
- Work more in small groups, smaller class size
- Have high expectations of students building a culture of no excuses. "Kids will live down or up to your expectations."

Dr. Fryer

More on Roland Fryer: http://www.macfound.org/fellows/3/

Upcoming Events from our Members!

- Communities in Schools of Cape Fear: Healthy Start Breakfast!
  Come have breakfast and hear about CIS Cape Fear and from Principal Todd Finn, New Hanover High School. Free event. Tuesday, May 8, 2012 7:30 a.m.
  1939 Independence Boulevard, Wilmington, NC
  RSVP louise@ciscapefear.org

- Communities in school of North Carolina: Free Service Learning Summit!
  First-ever statewide conference specifically designed to promote, develop and support high quality service-learning in K-20 student experiences. May 12, 2012 Greensboro, NC
  http://www.cisnc.org/whats_happening/view/north_carolina_service_learning_summit
Regional Success Stories

Congratulations go to Chandra Roughton, a graduate assistant at the Watson School of Education. Her team received a MAD award on their dropout prevention program research poster. The MAD award is “Making a Difference” in North Carolina. Keep up the wonderful work!

Regional Resources

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

- **We have a new mentoring committee.** If you would like to join please contact Claudia Buer at: buerbabe1@yahoo.com

- **Would you like to be a graduation project judge?**
  - New Hanover High School needs senior project judges:
    - May 22, 2012 4:30-7:00pm
    - Contact Kim Rushton: Kimberly.Rushton@nhcs.net
  - Mosley PLC also needs senior project judges:
    - May 17, 2012, 4:00-6:00pm
    - Contact Jill Larson: jill.Larson@nhcs.net

Dropout Prevention Information

- Check out a school that is trying out a new approach to school discipline. Their suspensions drop 85%!

- Finland has a very successful school reform model. Can we learn from it?
Upcoming Events . . .

- There is a Dropout Prevention symposium in the planning stages for the Fall.
- There is discussion about an upcoming Education Alliance Summit.
- We were asked to cosponsor the At-Risk Forum with the National Dropout Prevention Center again for next year in February, 2013.
- We were asked to co-sponsor the Leadercast event again next year in May, 2013.

Note: Please send any items you would like to see in upcoming newsletters to Dr. Janna Robertson at robertsonj@uncw.edu

We want to share your news! Please send it as soon as you can get it to us!