Welcome to the Southeastern North Carolina Dropout Prevention 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

Join us for this Free Event!!
We are co-sponsoring.
The North Carolina Service-Learning Coalition presents
2013 Southeastern Regional Service-Learning Training

Tuesday May 7th, 2013
8:00am to 1:00pm
E.A. Laney High School
2700 North College Road, Wilmington
NC 28405

Join service-learning high school teachers and students as they share practices and valuable trainings surrounding how to start or enhance your students’ experiences in an all-day training open to teachers, students, nonprofit partners, community groups, and service-learning rookies and experts. The NCSLC is holding a string of trainings throughout North Carolina, with the third event taking place in Wilmington. For information on other trainings, resources, and events please visit our website, www.ncscoaltion.org!

The training is FREE for all attendees, but space is limited to the first 30 registrations!

Registration and details are at:
http://ncscoalitionsoutheast2013.eventbrite.com/

The Dropout Prevention Coalition has had a productive year!

We have had many opportunities for professional development. Here are a few of our major events this year:

• North Carolina Education Summit with the Howard N. Lee Institute September 24 - 26 in Greensboro. Several of the Dropout Prevention Coalition Members presented and attended.
• A Dropout Prevention Symposium was held on December 5 at UNCW with Sen. Howard Lee as the keynote speaker. More than 120 attended to hear presentations from 14 successful area programs.
• We co-sponsored the 25th Annual At-Risk Youth National FORUM Investing for a Lifetime: Education Is Economic Development, February 17 - 20, 2013 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Rev. Clifford Barnett was a keynote speaker, and we had over 30 DPC attendees and presenters.
• On March 21, we hosted, “Successful and Innovative Programs to Ease the Transition from Middle School to High School." This roundtable event featured 13 successful middle school and high school programs designed to help students successfully transition to the 9th grade. We had 60 attendees from the area school districts.
• In April, 12 DPC mentors works with Youthbuild students on “Meeting Your Dream. Read more about it in this newsletter.
Meet your Dream! The Dropout Prevention Coalition Mentors at Youthbuild

Several members of the Dropout Prevention Coalition recently joined leaders at the Wilmington Housing Authority to provide hands-on mentoring to area young adults through the Youthbuild program in the “Meet Your Dreams” program. Youthbuild(http://www.wha.net/Housing_Programs/Resident_Services/YouthBuild.htm) is a program sponsored by the Housing Authority to work with individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 who have dropped out of school. The goal of the program is to help former students earn their GEDs and acquire skills needed to gain employment. Typically, hands-on training is provided in the field of construction. This year, DPC members teamed with the Housing Authority and volunteer experts from the community to encourage students to explore other areas of interest as well.

On April 5, mentors from the Dropout Prevention Coalition discussed with Youthbuild participants about achieving their goals. Paired with one or two individuals, the mentors assisted the participants in making a visual map to plan for their immediate future and set long-term goals.

The group re-convened on April 19 to bring participants to meet their future! Many had expressed interest in starting their own businesses, so the day began with a presentation by Robin Bennett, of the Small Business & Technology Development Center at UNCW (http://www.sbtcd.org/offices/uncw/). Ms. Bennett explained that the Center provides classes, consulting and support to aspiring entrepreneurs free of charge, and she gave each participant a book bag when they answered her questions.

Then came the part where we meet our dreams! On April 26, Youthbuild staff, Dropout Prevention Mentors and the participants had an opportunity to meet people who are doing what they want to do in the future. The participant’s career interests and our volunteer experts were:

- Artist: George Murray of Murray Art and Frames http://www.georgemurrayartist.com/
- Music: Carl Newton of the 5th Avenue Band http://www.carland5thavenue.com/
- Elderly care/ CAN (nursing): Andrea Swinson of Spring Arbor of Wilmington
- Security: Lt. DeNoia of UNCW Police
- Trucking/Freight/CDL: Willie Atkinson of Conway Freight
- New Hanover Foster Care Social Worker: Christy Thompson of New Hanover Social Services
- Cooking: Chef Jeffery Porter of Bluewater Grill in Wrightsville Beach

Our Youthbuild participants were happy to meet the experts and appreciative of the time and information shared. Some students even received offers of additional assistance and possible future employment! Please give these local professionals your thanks if you see them.

All of the students are now completing their GED’s and signing up for additional classes at Cape Fear Community College or internships at regional businesses. Our mentors are very proud of them!

This year, 12 Dropout Prevention Coalition members participated in the Youthbuild program including UNCW and Mount Olive professors and staff, undergraduate students, concerned citizens, and professionals from the local agencies. We all found it rewarding and informative to work directly with students who have dropped out, and the Coalition hopes to expand on this successful program next year. If you would like to get involved as a mentor or volunteer expert, please contact or Dr. Janna Robertson at robertsonj@uncw.edu.
National News

**Emergency Department Visits Involving Drug Misuse or Abuse by Children Aged 12 to 14**

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**Substance Use among 12th Grade Aged Youths by Dropout Status**

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**Parents: Revealing Your Past Smoking, Pot Use May Not Help Your Kids**

Candid confessions might backfire, new study shows

Source: HealthDay

Regional Resources

- Check out our Website! [http://uncw.edu/ed/Dropout/](http://uncw.edu/ed/Dropout/)
- Local STEM Resources! [http://uncw.edu/ed/stem/](http://uncw.edu/ed/stem/)
- More STEM assistance [http://www.uncw.edu/cestem/](http://www.uncw.edu/cestem/)

Dropout Prevention

**Engaging Families and the Community as an Alternative to Expulsion: An Innovative Approach to Dropout Prevention**

Presented by Dr. Karen Cooper-Haber

**Webcast:** Tuesday, May 7, 2013 3:30 - 4:30 pm Eastern Time

[www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast](http://www.dropoutprevention.org/webcast)

- Learn about an effective alternative to suspensions and expulsions
- Discover the important support roles that family therapists can play

Summer Camps

**Kids Making It** ([http://kidsmakingit.org/](http://kidsmakingit.org/)): See their summer camp offerings (some fun options like building go-karts) at [https://www.facebook.com/events/321822484542711/](https://www.facebook.com/events/321822484542711/)

The **Junior Seahawk Academy program** is sponsored by UNCW and the Watson College of Education with partners from SEAHAC and Time Warner Cable. The 2013 summer camp will take place during, June 17-21, 2013, 8:30am-12:30pm for students ages 11-14. The academy will serve approximately 60 middle school students. **There is a $60 registration fee for participants in the program.** The populations of middle school students targeted for this academy are from economically deprived and diverse communities but all students are welcome. Click here for registration information: [http://www.uncw.edu/ed/jrseahawk/](http://www.uncw.edu/ed/jrseahawk/)

The **Brigade Boys & Girls Club** invites you to join us for an exciting summer program including arts & crafts, sports, outdoor play, swimming, computers, field trips and much more! Open Monday-Friday 6:30am-6:00pm for grades K-12 with sites in New Hanover & Pender Counties. Cost ranging from $20-$75 per week including breakfast and lunch daily. For more information please contact us at 910-392-0747 or visit [www.brigadebgc.org](http://www.brigadebgc.org).

**Community Boys and Girls Club of Wilmington Summer Program** will be open Mon-Fri beginning on June 17th and lasting through August 16th, from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Costing only $360.00 which includes adult supervision, breakfast, lunch, and snack for members. There are payment plans available and some limited scholarships that parents can apply for. We are also offering an early bird registration for parents who sign up before May 17th, which is 25% off the original cost for the summer program. For further information parents can call our main office (910)-762-1252. [https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Community-Boys-and-Girls-Club-of-Wilmington/444007582302623](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Community-Boys-and-Girls-Club-of-Wilmington/444007582302623)

**GED classes in Wilmington**

- Rankin Terrace Tuesday/Thursday 5pm-8pm
- Creekwood Tuesday/Thursday 5:30pm-8:30pm
- Hillcrest Monday/Wednesday 9am-12pm

UNCW has youth camps at: [http://uncw.edu/youth/](http://uncw.edu/youth/)

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Regional Success Story: Pamlico County Schools Has All Time Low Dropout Rate

According to the North Carolina Public Schools website, “The North Carolina annual high school dropout rate decreased from 3.43 percent to 3.01 percent for the 2011-12 school year.” PCHS (Pamlico County High School) is proud to announce that their dropout rate is 1.29 percent for the 2011-2012 school year. The school ranks third in North Carolina. This percentage is down from 1.48 percent during the 2010-2011 school year. While the district is proud to come in below the state average and have the third lowest dropout rate in the state, it was not accomplished without hard work and dedication from faculty, staff, and administration at PCHS.

Several programs and efforts contribute to the low dropout rate at PCHS. First of all, the faculty, staff, and administration ensure that children are put first. The teachers, administration, and support staff continuously strive to ensure that each student is looked after and given every advantage and opportunity possible to succeed. The fact that PCHS is a small school allows students to have one on one attention from teachers and support staff. Small class sizes are also an advantage of being a small school.

In addition to being a small school and being able to give students individualized attention, there are several programs in place which contribute to the low dropout rate. At Pamlico County High School, a Dropout Prevention Specialist and the Child and Family Support Team, consisting of a social worker and nurse, provide resources to students and families, as well as, serve as a bridge between the community and the school. These support staff members make home visits, build relationships with students, and help to increase parent involvement.

Pamlico County Schools also implemented the PATS (Pamlico Alternative to Suspension) program in 2007. PCHS recognizes that students make mistakes and deserve a second chance. The PATS program allows students to have that second chance upon being suspended from school. If a student receives out of school suspension, the student is allowed to participate in the PATS program in order to clear their record. When a student is assigned to PATS, they are allowed to complete their assignments and participate in service opportunities.

The faculty, staff and administration at Pamlico County High School are proud of the 1.29 percent dropout rate, but will not stop until the dropout rate is 0 percent. Pamlico County High School continues to strive to live up to the district motto of “We Do What’s Best for Children.”

Pamlico joins the UNCW Dropout Prevention Coalition

North Carolina in the News

Nick Rhodes, one of our board members wrote an interesting piece about School Vouchers in North Carolina. Check it out at: http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/04/18/2834479/all-the-ways-school-vouchers-are.html

Pace is quickening for Workbased Learning http://ncnewschools.org/news/article/pace-quickens-for-workbased-learning

In Memorium

It is with regret we inform you of the passing of Dr. Howard Rasheed, a business professor at UNCW that worked with the DPC. We will miss him. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.
Announcing: Chick-fil-A® Leadcast® Event in Wilmington May 10

On Friday, May 10, Warner Temple A.M.E. Zion Church and Northwestern Mutual will co-host a Chick-fil-A® Leadcast® event at the First Baptist Activity Center on Independence Boulevard in Wilmington.

Chick-fil-A® Leadcast® is a one-day leadership development event broadcast LIVE from Atlanta, GA to hundreds of sites throughout the nation including Wilmington. Last year, over 100,000 leaders from 14 countries attended Chick-fil-A® Leadcast®. In its 14th year, this full day, experiential conference is predicted to reach its largest audience to date.

The theme for this year’s event is “Simply Lead” and speakers include:

- Jack Welch, Former Chairman and CEO of General Electric
- Andy Stanley, Best-selling leadership author and communicator
- Mike Krzyzewski, Head men’s basketball coach, Duke University and Team USA
- John Maxwell, Best-selling author and leadership expert
- Dr. Henry Cloud, Best-selling author and leadership consultant
- LCDR Rorke Denver, Navy SEAL and star of the 2012 movie Act of Valor
- Sanya Richards-Ross, 2012 London Olympic gold medalist, track & field
- David Allen, Best-selling author of Getting Things Done and productivity expert
- Condolezza Rice, Secretary of State (2005-2009), via exclusive Simply Lead video interview

To register, visit www.chick-fil-aleadercast.com, enter a Wilmington zip code and select the Warner Temple A.M.E Zion Church site location. Tickets are available for $60, with a discount rate of $50 each when purchasing a table of 8. A special student discount rate of $40 is available to anyone currently enrolled in high school or college. For more information about the Wilmington Chick-fil-A® Leadercast® event, call local Event Coordinators Clifford Barnett at 757-537-2019 or Charlotte Mercer at 910-430-9814.

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!