

INNOVATOR

News about high school innovation

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Welcome to INNOVATOR, a bimonthly report on high school change in North Carolina from the North Carolina New Schools Project. INNOVATOR informs practitioners, policy makers, and friends of public education about high school innovation in North Carolina as well as success stories and research from across the nation.

Learn and Earn wins national award from Harvard University

North Carolina's Learn and Earn education initiative is in the national spotlight with an award for innovation from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

The Learn and Earn initiative is one of six government programs across the country that Harvard named last week as winners in its annual competition for the [Innovations in American Government Award](#). The university has held the contest since 1986 to draw attention to promising government initiatives with the greatest potential to improve the lives of citizens.

Harvard singled out Learn and Earn, launched by Gov. Mike Easley, as a praiseworthy example of public-private cooperation for improving educational opportunity across North Carolina. The effort has led to the creation of 60 early college high schools statewide that allow students to earn significant college credit by the time they graduate. In addition to recognizing the early college high school program, the award also honored Learn and Earn Online and the state's new EARN grants, aimed at helping with college affordability.

Learn and Earn was selected from a field of nearly 1,000 contenders for the Harvard award.

"To compete in the global economy of today, higher education is becoming increasingly necessary," said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Awards at Harvard's Kennedy School. "Learn and Earn has engaged both public and private partners in efforts to ensure educational opportunity for North Carolina students. The culture of cooperation and adoption of a dual approach - emphasizing both academic achievement and college accessibility - is worthy of replication throughout the country."

The award includes a \$100,000 prize for replication and dissemination of the program around the country.

In addition to Learn and Earn, awards were also given to initiatives in New York, Missouri, Arizona and of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Videos of all the award winners can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/AshInstitute>