



SANDRA BOWLING, ELIZABETH A. GILLESPIE, DIANNE LEE, BARBARA MACON, TARA MELTON, MILLER (2)

NCCAT STEM seminars teaching students for the 21st century

NCCAT's STEM seminars give teachers a better foundation in STEM subjects and increase their confidence in teaching STEM-related content.

The jobs of tomorrow are going to require expanded skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). With a global economy that demands creativity, ingenuity, and a strong STEM-based workforce, the need for STEM-related professional development is more important than ever before. NCCAT's *Teaching Students of the 21st Century Initiative* gives teachers a better foundation in STEM subjects and therefore increases their confidence in teaching STEM-related content, especially those with general education backgrounds.

As North Carolina moves to emphasize STEM disciplines in the public school curriculum, NCCAT continues to provide our state's teachers with the professional development they need to help students compete and succeed in the twenty-first century. NCCAT gives teachers hands-on experiences with the newest frontiers, allowing them to learn and share creative, engaging, and effective teaching strategies. NCCAT seminars energize our state's teachers' intellectual curiosity in these areas and they, in turn, actively engage their students.

NCCAT offers instructional programming specifically addressing STEM subjects, including seminars such as "Catching Up with Your Students: Navigating

Technology for the 21st Century"; "Climbing the Double Helix: Is DNA Destiny?"; "Dollars and Sense: Building Financial Literacy"; "Everyone Needs a Little Mystery: CSI in Your Classroom"; "The Ecology of Barrier Islands"; "Multimedia in the Classroom: Empowering Student Learning"; "Sea Level Rise: The Impact of Climate Change"; and "You Go, Girl! Empowering Girls in Math, Science, and Technology."

One such seminar was "Fearless Science: Awakening Your Inner Einstein." During this seminar, teachers explored ways to get students excited about all types of science. Integrating the goals and objectives of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, teachers explored concepts such as motion, the solar system, geology, weather, ecosystems, and more. They related these areas to everyday life, performed hands-on research, and came away with a host of great ideas for getting their students to see themselves as active scientists.

"There were so many interesting and practical sessions about how to teach science," said Helen Byrd, who teaches at Hendersonville Elementary School in Henderson County. "I will use the activities involving sound, weather, and states of matter in my class. And because of this NCCAT seminar, I have a better understanding of science in general."

Seminars ... continued from page 1

Erika Huddle, who teaches at Wrightsboro Elementary School in New Hanover County, added, “I plan to hold monthly mini-seminars with all the teachers in my school to share experiments from this seminar that they can take back to their classrooms.”

Throughout 2011, NCCAT will continue to give educators what they need to inspire students to study STEM subjects. Already on the NCCAT seminar schedule are more than two dozen STEM seminars such as “Empowering Student Learning in the Digital Universe” and “The Outdoor Classroom: Integrating Natural

Experiences with the Curriculum.”

All of NCCAT’s professional development seminars are designed to equip teachers with the critical skills and knowledge that will strengthen their ability to teach and integrate STEM into the curriculum in exciting and innovative ways. The more knowledgeable and inspired teachers are in these areas, the better educated and prepared the next generation will be.

To learn more about NCCAT’s upcoming professional development seminars, visit www.nccat.org.

Teachers learn to prevent dropouts

According to a report published by the Alliance for Excellent Education, more than seven thousand students become dropouts every day. “Annually, that adds up to about 1.2 million students who will not graduate from high school with their peers as scheduled. Lacking a high school diploma, these individuals will be far more likely to spend their lives periodically unemployed, on government assistance, or cycling in and out of the prison system,” the report says.

The report continues: “If the nation’s secondary schools improved sufficiently to graduate all of their students...the payoff would be significant. For instance, if the students who dropped out of the Class of 2009 had graduated, the nation’s economy would have benefited from nearly \$335 billion in additional income over the course of their lifetimes.”

To help North Carolina teachers learn what they can do to increase student graduation rates, NCCAT designed a seminar specifically addressing this important issue, called “The Last Dropout: Keeping Students In School.” Working closely with staff from Communities in Schools, this seminar explored the importance of connecting community resources with schools.

According to studies, students dropout for a host of reasons including academic frustration, failing grades, poor attendance, and extended periods of disengagement. Seminar participants began their week by taking a close look at what it takes to help kids succeed in school and prepare for life. Then they explored the vital role caring and knowledgeable adults play in addressing the needs of their students.

“We introduced teachers to integrated learning styles and multiple intelligences to help them connect with students,”



Teachers discuss effective strategies to build relationships with disenfranchised youth and connect schools with community resources to help troubled students graduate and succeed in life.

said Center Fellow Dr. Ernest Johnson. “We looked at ways to make learning relevant and exciting, particularly for those at high risk for dropout. We developed strategies for finding out how a student learns and then discussed how to tailor our instruction to create a relationship that will ignite that student’s excitement for learning.”

To give teachers practical ideas for engaging their students, the group explored how to use poetry and other forms of self-expression to interest and challenge young learners. Teachers Skyped with two of the original “Freedom Writers” to talk about what teachers can do to help students reach their full academic potential and aspire to higher education.

“Providing our teachers with the information and skills they need to keep North Carolina students in school will have a significant positive impact socially and economically for our state,” Johnson said.

Ocracoke's shoreline thriving

Through the cooperative efforts of several state agencies, nonprofit organizations, North Carolina teachers and students, local volunteers, and NCCAT, the shoreline adjacent to NCCAT's Ocracoke campus has been rescued from further erosion and returned to a productive and protective wetlands.

"Ocracoke's shoreline has been improved aesthetically, improved ecologically, and improved in erosion control," said Jason Doll, senior scientist at Moffatt & Nichol, the engineering firm engaged to design the project.

In 2001, the property and buildings that now house NCCAT's Ocracoke campus were transferred from the federal government to the State of North Carolina. North Carolina then set aside funds to fix a serious erosion issue that had been threatening the site for decades. "If we had not undertaken this project, erosion would have continued and very likely resulted in damage to the site and the building structure at the site," said Doug Edwards, project manager for the NC State Construction Office.

Doll added, "Previous attempts at shoreline erosion control were band-aid approaches. We took a more proactive approach returning the area to wetlands—nature's own method of erosion control."

Construction began in 2009. The shoreline was re-graded to its natural slope, breakwater sills were constructed to dissipate wave energy so new plants could establish themselves, and an outdoor classroom amid the marsh was constructed to hold environmental education seminars by NCCAT.

Much of the planting of the two- to three-acre wetlands was actually done by North Carolina teachers, students, and



ALTON BALANCE

local volunteers thanks to a grant from Restore America's Estuaries secured through the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF). Using the grant, NCCF partnered with NCCAT, and in April 2010, the two organizations conducted a series of seminars that educated teachers and students about the area's ecosystem and then had participants and local volunteers actually plant the new wetlands.

"This design has not only prevented shoreline loss, but also has created wildlife habitat and nursery areas for fish and other aquatic species," Doll said. "Instead of just having a stone-covered shoreline that would continue to erode and need repairs, Ocracoke now has an area of living vegetation and habitat, and it will continue to get better." Edwards added, "The immediate result is protection to the site. The long-term result as a learning environment is limited only by the imagination of the people who will use it."

Governor appoints new NCCAT trustees

Gov. Beverly Perdue has appointed Deborah Aldridge of Old Fort, Henry Lee Chandler of Waxhaw, Gregory West of Fayetteville, and Jackie Wooten of Bethel to the NCCAT Board of Trustees. Aldridge, an English teacher at North Buncombe High School in Weaverville, represents Region 8. Chandler, a math teacher at Porter Ridge Middle School in Union County, represents Region 6. West, chief of staff of H&H Homes in Fayetteville, represents Region 4. Wooten, a retired teacher from Pitt County, represents Region 1. In addition to these appointments, Guy Smith of Lexington was reappointed to represent Region 5. "Each of these individuals brings a proven record of dedication to quality public education in North Carolina," said Linda S. Suggs of Morrisville, chair of the NCCAT Board of Trustees.



ELIZABETH A. GILLISPIE

Pictured here (left to right): Linda S. Suggs of Morrisville, chair of the NCCAT Board of Trustees; Deborah Aldridge; Dr. Mary D. McDuffie, executive director of NCCAT; Jackie Wooten; and Judge Willis P. Whichard of Chapel Hill, NCCAT trustee.

JFK staffer addresses NCCAT seminar

Leonard Meeker, who served as legal adviser to the US Department of State during the John F. Kennedy administration, was a guest speaker at NCCAT's "Camelot: The Myth and Mystique of the Kennedy Years" seminar.

Meeker shared with teachers his firsthand accounts of strategy sessions within the Kennedy administration during both the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"I think Kennedy understood the Bay of Pigs was a huge mistake. Lessons learned from that resulted in a far better performance from the administration during the Cuban Missile Crisis," Meeker said.

Meeker, who was Ambassador to Romania from 1969 to 1973, shared his personal reflections about working with President Kennedy. "He was a very focused, alert, and highly competent individual," Meeker said. "When you



talked to him, he listened carefully before responding. I think he always wanted to consider his options."

"Having someone who actually participated in the history we were studying contributed significantly to the learning experience," said Center Fellow Dr. Henry Wong. "Our participants returned to their classrooms with renewed recognition of the importance of studying events of the past in order to make more informed decisions for the future."

Golden LEAF Foundation awards NCCAT \$125,000

The Golden LEAF Foundation of Rocky Mount has awarded \$125,000 to the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. to support National Board candidates from from Tier 1 counties, some of the most economically distressed counties in the state.

"The Golden LEAF Foundation is pleased to support NCCAT's work to increase the number of National Board Certified Teachers," said Golden LEAF President Dan Gerlach. "North Carolina leads the nation in certified teachers, and this investment will help make North Carolina globally competitive by improving teaching and learning." Since 1997, NCCAT has been providing National Board Support Seminars that have served more than 5,200 candidates.

Numerous studies have shown that the process of National Board certification enhances the abilities of even the most qualified teachers and serves to strengthen teacher dedication to the profession. Since 1998, NCCAT's National Board Support Seminars have been instrumental in helping candidates on their quest for certification. North Carolina has 2,277 newly-certified National Board teachers, for a total of 17,957 NBCTs statewide.

"This is the sixth year that the Golden LEAF Foundation has contributed generous funding for NCCAT's National Board Support Seminars," said Mary Kay Cooley, assistant director of programming at NCCAT. "We are grateful for its commitment to improving public education in our state through quality teaching."

Development Foundation of NCCAT welcomes new members

Six names have been added to the board of directors' roster for the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. The board's executive committee unanimously approved for membership Joan Celestino, a National Board Certified Teacher from Winston-Salem; David M. Farris, partner and vice president of Farris Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge in Rocky Mount; Dr. John Highsmith, a dentist in private practice in Clyde and former NCCAT Trustee; Michael Owen, senior managing director and the Carolina's regional manager for Scott & Stringfellow in Mocksville; James Scarola, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer at Progress Energy

Carolinas and Florida of Raleigh; and Alfred Schnog, chairman of the Stainless Corporation of Wilmington.

Renewing their membership on the board are the Hon. Anthony R. Foxx of Charlotte, William H. McIntyre of Winston-Salem, and Judy S. Phillips of Cary.

"The experience, qualifications, and proven dedication to education of our new and renewing board members puts the Development Foundation in a great position to meet the challenges of these tough economic times," said Richard A. Schwartz, president of the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc.

Boards for the Teachers Walk to the outdoor classroom at NCCAT's Ocracoke campus are now on sale for \$150.

Contact Dee Grantham at granthamd@nccat.org for more information.



2009-2010

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Honor Roll of Donors

We are pleased to recognize our 2009–2010 donors to the Development Foundation of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching Inc. In this report we celebrate all that you have done to support our work and make the year a great success. We are grateful to have all of you as a part of our NCCAT family and a friend to education.

We were careful in preparing this report, which lists donations made between **July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010**, when our fiscal year ended. Please note that all gifts after June 30, 2010, will be listed next year. If you need to report an error or omission, please contact:

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GOLDEN APPLE SCHOOLS, 2009-2010

These schools achieved both requirements: four or more teachers in the schools are alumni of NCCAT programs, and all of these alumni made contributions to the 2009-2010 Annual Fund.

Ten or more consecutive years as a Golden Apple School:

Timber Drive Elementary School,
Garner

Five or more consecutive years as a Golden Apple School:

Gateway Education Center, Greensboro
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Newton
North Chatham Elementary School,
Chapel Hill
Vandora Springs Elementary School,
Garner
Wintergreen Primary School,
Greenville

One to four years as a Golden Apple School:

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East Carteret High School, Beaufort
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Gatesville
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Millbrook Elementary School, Raleigh
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Selma Middle School, Selma
South Mecklenburg High School,
Charlotte
Wahl Coates Elementary School,
Greenville
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Lincolnton

Z. Smith Reynolds supports new teachers with \$70,000

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem has pledged \$70,000 over the next two years to the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. to support teachers participating in NCCAT's "Connect to Your Future: Celebrating Success in the Classroom" seminars. This is in addition to a \$30,000 grant that was awarded last year.

These seminars help teachers in their second or third year in the profession develop strong foundations in classroom management and instructional practices, while building a network of peer support. NCCAT programming for beginning teachers has proven to result in a higher overall retention rate than that of the state or the nation.

Last year, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation awarded a two-year grant of \$125,000 per year in support of *NCCAT Connections*, a yearlong induction program designed specifically for teachers in their first year in the classroom.

GlaxoSmithKline encourages STEM with \$28,000

The GlaxoSmithKline Community Partnerships of Research Triangle Park has awarded the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. \$28,000 to invest in NCCAT's *Teaching Students of the 21st Century Initiative*. This grant will support NCCAT's professional development seminars that focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

NCCAT receives \$10,000 from BB&T

BB&T Charitable Foundation, created by BB&T Corporation of Winston-Salem, has awarded \$10,000 to the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc.

"BB&T's generous investment in NCCAT will show invaluable returns throughout our state," said Dr. Mary D. McDuffie, executive director of NCCAT. "BB&T's gift will help sustain NCCAT's work to give teachers new knowledge and skills for the 21st century classroom."

"Old Fossil" tournament a success



The fifth annual "Old Fossil" Golf Tournament was held in Pinehurst last summer. The event raised funds for a second Dr. A. Craig Phillips Honored Educator Scholarship. NCCAT's Honored Educator Scholarship Program gives tribute to outstanding individuals and educators by providing scholarship funds in their names. Phillips (a.k.a. "Old Fossil") was the state superintendent of public instruction from 1969–1989. The sixth annual "Old Fossil" Golf Tournament will be held on June 21 at Longleaf Golf and Country Club in Southern Pines. For information, email foundation@nccat.org.



Survivor supports Holocaust education



SANDRA BOWLING

For the third time, Anita and Alfred Schnog will host an event in Wilmington to raise much-needed funds in support of NCCAT's Holocaust Education Program.

Alfred Schnog, board member of the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc., survived the Holocaust and has been active in speaking about the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides.

"Since the Holocaust...we see human atrocities taking place but feel helpless in preventing them," Alfred Schnog said. "Yet, there is one thing that we can do—speak out against such crimes and teach our children about them and their cause. Only in this manner can we hope to stem the universal disregard of such human suffering."

Last year's event raised awareness of the positive impact of NCCAT's Holocaust Education programming and also raised funds for NCCAT's Holocaust Education Endowment.

NCCAT's Holocaust Education Program strives to provide North Carolina educators intensive preparation for teaching the precursors, events, and consequences of the Holocaust.

For information about this year's fundraising event in Wilmington, email foundation@nccat.org.

Governor Hunt honored at 25th Anniversary NCCAT Golden Apple Gala

The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching recently hosted an event to recognize twenty-five years of service to North Carolina's public school teachers. Former NC Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., who was governor when NCCAT was created, was honored at the *25th Anniversary NCCAT Golden Apple Gala* for his pivotal role in improving public education in North Carolina and the nation.

One of Gov. Hunt's most significant accomplishments was the establishment of NCCAT in 1985. Twenty-five years later, NCCAT has become a nationally recognized leader in professional development—supporting and retaining the highly qualified teachers who will prepare students to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Nearly 500 people gathered at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville on October 30 to honor NCCAT and Gov. Hunt for a lifetime of service to our state, our nation, and to public education. Among the evening's speakers were North Carolina Teacher of the Year Jennifer Facciolini; Trisha Muse, an alumna of NCCAT's Beginning Teachers Program and the 2008–09 Sandhills South Central Region Teacher of the Year; and Dennis Bega, senior policy analyst at the US Department of Education.

After a short film detailing Hunt's many contributions to education, Hunt was introduced by five-time Tony-Award winner Dr. William Ivey Long, a native North Carolinian and a board member of the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc.

Hunt reminded the audience that education is an issue that can draw us together. "Education is the way a state grows," he said. "We only win jobs if our workforce is educated."

In the documentary produced by Will & Deni Films of Winston-Salem that chronicled Hunt's achievements, Hunt said, "We've done a lot of good things for education in North Carolina. NCCAT is one of the best things we have ever done. No other state in America has done it the way we have."

The *NCCAT Golden Apple Gala* was made possible through the generous support of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, Harrah's Cherokee, and many other sponsors.



"Education is the way a state grows," says former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. as he and his wife, Carolyn, show their support for North Carolina's public school teachers.



Barak Henis, vice president of Diamonds Direct Crabtree, congratulates 2010–2011 NC Teacher of the Year Jennifer Facciolini on winning a bracelet donated by Diamonds Direct.



Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, vice president of public affairs at Progress Energy and chair of the State Board of Community Colleges, considers making a bid on one of the 150 donated silent auction items.



Dr. William Ivey Long, five-time Tony-Award winner, honors teachers with former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. and Dr. Mary D. McDuffie, NCCAT executive director.



As Signature Sponsor, the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association continues to provide much-needed funding for NCCAT's instructional programming. David Farris, a trustee for the NCADA and board member of the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc., with Robert Glaser (right), president of NCADA.



Linda Suggs, chair of the NCCAT Board of Trustees, and Richard Schwartz, president of the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc., are committed to keeping highly qualified teachers like 2010–2011 NC Teacher of the Year Jennifer Facciolini (far right) in the profession.

Educators develop strategies that “close the gap”

A group of committed educators recently left NCCAT’s Cullowee campus equipped with practical strategies to enhance the achievement of African American students in their classrooms and throughout their schools.

The group participated in the professional development seminar, “Best Practices for Motivating African American Students,” where they were immersed in the latest findings on student achievement, exploring techniques for engaging African American students, and sharing and refining strategies they have already found successful in closing achievement gaps at their own schools.

Several administrators also participated in this seminar as part of NCCAT’s *Principal Scholars Initiative*, a program designed to give principals the opportunity to attend a professional development seminar at NCCAT.

“This was an opportunity to work with teachers from counties throughout our state to see what successful strategies and programs are currently in place,” said Jacob Barr, principal of Woodhill Elementary School in Gastonia. “I now am sharing what I learned at NCCAT with my entire staff.”

The seminar began with a look into the jigsaw classroom strategy, a process where students are divided into groups. Each member of the group individually researches an aspect of a book or topic and then later teaches the other members of the group what they learned about their topic. This peer-teaching strategy has met with success in enhancing student achievement. Utilizing this and many other active classroom strategies, the teachers explored the uses of cultural phenomenon in the classroom, examined their expectations of students, researched best practices, learned about stresses on today’s students, and brainstormed effective strategies for closing the achievement gap.



CHRIS DYKE

Seminar participants collaborate to create a “best practices” wiki where they can share information between students, teachers, administrators, and NCCAT faculty and staff. Visit <http://nccatbestpractices.pbworks.com>.

“This seminar encouraged me to think outside the box and reminded me that today’s generation is different than my own,” said Nancy Willis, who teaches biomedical technology at Dudley High School in Guilford County. “As teachers, we need to adapt. I plan to use resources we were introduced to in this seminar. In the end, what I learned was not just about motivating African American students; these ideas will be beneficial for motivating all my students.”

Barr added, “NCCAT is definitely beneficial for teachers. It gives teachers a chance to delve into issues relating to best instructional practices and to gather the best ideas from colleagues across school districts.”

Barr was so impressed with what he experienced at NCCAT that he has already registered six teams of teachers from his school for upcoming NCCAT seminars. “Each group will return to our school with professional learning opportunities for the entire staff,” Barr said.



ERICA VAUGHN

Harrah’s Cherokee concert for NCCAT

Three of country music’s fastest rising stars—Lee Brice, Josh Thompson, and Jason Michael Carroll—performed at Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort Event Center to raise funds for the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. In addition, Harrah’s Cherokee employees donated more than \$1,900 and collected school supplies that were distributed by Dee Grantham, NCCAT alumni coordinator, to Jackson County Public Schools. A total of \$12,824 was raised from the concert, employee contributions, and sponsorship donations.

NCCAT Executive Director Dr. Mary D. McDuffie (center) receives a check for school supplies. Joyce C. Dugan of Cherokee (right), director of education for the Cherokee Central School System in Cherokee and board member of the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc., was on stage for the ceremony.

***The North Carolina Center for the
Advancement of Teaching***

276 NCCAT Drive

PO Box 5121

Cullowhee, NC 28723

Address Service Requested

**NC Principal of the Year champions
NCCAT's professional development**

In 1999, Jan King attended an NCCAT professional development seminar about the American Civil War. "For one week, we grappled with issues of the Civil War," King said. "I know we all went back as better teachers—not just because of the content of the seminar but because NCCAT uses great instructional strategies. They teach us how to teach. I was able to go back and teach something like progressivism with the same strategies that were used in the Civil War seminar."

Four years later, King returned to NCCAT as a National Board candidate.

King, who achieved National Board certification as a teacher in 2003, not only attended NCCAT's National Board Support Seminar as a candidate but later returned as a candidate support provider. She attributes achieving certification on her first attempt to NCCAT's National Board Support Seminar. "The process of board certification was the best professional development I have experienced," King said.

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Dr. Mary D. McDuffie, Executive Director
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COURTESY OF JAN KING

Jan King with students at Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School.

King, the 2010 North Carolina Wachovia Principal of the Year, says she uses the skills she gained through certification in her job as principal at Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Henderson County.

"As principal, I see my role as the academic leader of the school," King said.

"The process of certification, whether you are a teacher or a principal, is an investment in your own career. The skills I developed through the certification process help me enormously in keeping my focus on being an academic leader. As a teacher, the process taught me to continually question how my actions added to a student's academic growth. As principal, I ask how policies and managerial decisions support student achievement," King said. "The process makes you drill down and justify what you do in the classroom. I like to say it makes you see the trees *and* the forest."