

# THE EARLY EDITION

*Early College HS - CFCC Partnership News*

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## *Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Early College/Cosmetology Building on North Campus*

On Tuesday, September 8, 2009, a joint Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony between New Hanover County Schools and Cape Fear Community College took place to celebrate the opening of the new Cosmetology/ WECHS building. The ceremony symbolized a new beginning for both the CFCC students and high school students who are now housed in the "ND" building on North Campus.



Angela Metts (WECHS Program Director)  
and Ivy Murrain (WECHS Principal)  
with Dr. Eric McKeithan (CFCC President)

In August of 2007, having worked for more than a year in developing a foundation for a long-term partnership, Cape Fear Community College and New Hanover County Schools opened Wilmington Early College High School, one of nearly 70 early colleges across the state, on the North Campus of CFCC. As a North Carolina New Schools Project innovative high school, WECHS immediately experienced the power of the site: Students and their teachers not only inhabited college classrooms, but they were able to use college resources and take college classes that would count toward high school credit. Rick Zigler, then Vice President for Instruction, discovered an opportunity for a state appropriated grant that would allow for the development of a new building on North Campus, designed to house the Early College on its first floor and the Cosmetology School on the second floor. The five design principles: Power of the Site, Personalization, Redefining Professionalism, Requiring Powerful Teaching and Learning and College Readiness, NC New School Project core concepts, provided an underpinning for the crafting of the grant proposal, and a \$900,000 grant was awarded to cover the cost of the first floor of the building. Now, 1.5 years later, the Cosmetology building is a testament to the positive results of a partnership between two great educational institutions, which place the future of ALL students and their education as the highest priorities.



*The Early Edition* is produced quarterly by Kate Santhuff, College Liaison for the Wilmington Early College, North Campus.

### *Did You Know?*

Since 2005, the number of early college high schools in North Carolina has more than tripled from 13 to 42!



Stephen Reece, a Pender Early College 4th-year student (2nd row, 2nd from right), represents CFCC as an Ambassador

### *CFCC's Ambassador Program Welcomes Qualified Early College Students*

Stephen Reece of Rocky Point is the first high school student chosen to be an Ambassador for the 2009-10 school year. Stephen is a current student at Pender Early College High School at the Burgaw Campus. He hopes to earn an Associate's Degree in Science at CFCC and transfer to North Carolina State University to become an engineer. Stephen is among ten other CFCC Ambassadors, who represent a wide array of academic programs, ages and life experiences, and who, according to program coordinator Dana McKoy, "will be great representatives of CFCC's student body."

# EARLY COLLEGE SUCCESSES



## *PECHS Student Wins Two Essay Contests*

Pender Early College High School student Hunter Clemmons won the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' second annual County Government Essay Contest. Clemmons and her 10th grade History teacher, Jonathan Grubbs, each won \$500 for Clemmons' winning essay.

Hunter also won second place in the national "I Changed the World" essay contest sponsored by Barbara's Bakery/Puffins Cereal. Clemmons won \$250 and various Puffins related items for her essay based on her involvement in the PECHS Republican Club. The school offers several political clubs and has this year emphasized helping students learn about political issues. (Source: *StarNews Online*, Monday, September 21, 2009)

## *WECHS: State School of Distinction*

Wilmington Early College has been recognized as a School of Distinction for 2008-09 by the State Board of Education Department of Public Instruction. Congratulations to WECHS students and teachers for reaching proficiency of 80% or above in all core subjects tested by the state. Highlights were the English I testing score of 100% proficiency, Biology testing score of 95% and Algebra I score of 88.8%! Way to go WECHS!

## *Lines From Your Liaisons*

By Brian Weeks, PECHS and Kate Santhuff, WECHS

In the Fall 2009 semester, over 200 early college students (combined) from both Pender and Wilmington Early Colleges have enrolled in college classes alongside traditional college students, as part of their pursuit of both a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree. Just like their adult classmates, students have come to CFCC to obtain an AA, AS or AAS Degree, and most will transfer to 4-year universities at the end of their fifth year.

Some early college students are on track to graduate in four years. At Pender Early College, five students plan to complete their degrees and transfer by May 2010. And at Wilmington Early College, seven students are preparing for the chance to walk down the aisle in May 2011. College transfer graduation may well top VoTech's graduation for volume and excitement starting in the coming spring!

## *Quick Notes*

- PECHS is in its 4th year of operation with approximately 200 students. WECHS is in its 3rd year with approximately 130 students.
- 5 PECHS students will graduate early, in May 2010, with an A.A. or A.S. from CFCC.
- 18 PECHS students earned a Career Readiness Certificate through Cape Fear Community College. The certificate is a nationally recognized award that indicates that the holder has the universal skills required to be successful in a wide variety of jobs.

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The NC New Schools Project is an initiative of the Office of the Governor and the NC Education Cabinet with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The early college model seeks to build strong collaborations between the local school district, business and higher education. NHCS-CFCC and PCS-CFCC represent two such collaborations.



For more information on CFCC's two early colleges, contact **Brian Weeks** on the Burgaw Campus, 109-F, 362-7908, [bweeks@cfcc.edu](mailto:bweeks@cfcc.edu) or **Kate Santhuff** on the North Campus, NB-151, 362-7594, [ksanthuff@cfcc.edu](mailto:ksanthuff@cfcc.edu).