



www.donorschoosenc.org

GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY HELP LAUNCH OF DONORSCHOOSENC

Web Site to Link N.C. Teachers to Donors Across the State and the Country

Durham, February 11, 2004— Governor Mike Easley and the First Lady today helped launch DonorsChooseNC in 15 pilot school districts across North Carolina. DonorsChooseSM is a nonprofit marketplace on the Internet where teachers and citizens connect to give students resources they need to learn.

"North Carolina has been a national leader in its focus on teacher quality," said Easley. "Supporting teacher excellence and creativity is an important way to ensure great teaching in our classrooms and increased student achievement. That is why I am pleased that DonorsChoose has selected North Carolina as its first expansion outside New York. We look forward to supporting teachers across the state and to serving as a model for other states around the country."

Originally launched in 2000, www.donorschoose.org allows teachers to submit proposals for any resource that would enhance their students' learning. Proposals may include requests for books, art supplies, science equipment, computers or a variety of other materials. Individuals around the state and the country can review the proposals and choose to fund the ones they find most compelling. When a proposal is funded, DonorsChoose purchases the materials for the teacher and compiles photographs, student thank-you notes, a teacher impact letter, and receipts for the donor.

DonorsChooseNC will follow in the footsteps of the New York office, which has funded nearly \$1 million worth of projects in less than four years. The following 15 school districts are currently participating in the program:

Asheville
Burke County
Caldwell County
Charlotte/Mecklenburg County
Cumberland County
Durham County
Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County
Granville County
Halifax County
Nash/Rocky Mount
Onslow County
Pender County
Wake County
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County
Wilson County

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The program will be available to teachers statewide in August of this year and is estimated to direct \$100,000 worth of resources to North Carolina schools by the end of the 2004 school year.

“While a powerful goal of DonorsChoose is to help students gain the resources they need to learn, another key goal is to empower citizens to have a positive, immediate and tangible impact on our public schools,” said Michael Brader-Araje, chair of the DonorsChooseNC board. Brader-Araje led the effort to bring the program to North Carolina and also serves on the DonorsChoose National Board of Directors.

The Michael and Laura Brader-Araje Foundation has contributed \$100,000 to help fund the North Carolina expansion and a number of other donors are also paving the way for DonorsChooseNC Wachovia Corp., Progress Energy, RBC Centura, Kellogg Foundation and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation collectively have donated more than \$200,000.

DonorsChooseNC board members include former governors James Hunt, James Holshouser and James Martin. Other North Carolina board members include Erskine Bowles, U.S. Senate candidate; Marshall Brain, founder, How Stuff Works; J.B. Buxton, senior education advisor to Gov. Easley; Joseph Crocker, senior vice president, Wachovia Bank; Deborah Hylton, partner, Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice; Barbara Kelley, former chairperson, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; Howard Lee, chairman, N.C. State Board of Education; Joan Lipsitz; senior fellow, MDC; Kay Moore, dean, N.C. State University School of Education and Joan Siefert-Rose, general manager, WUNC radio.

For more information on DonorsChoose or to find out how you can participate in the program, visit www.donorschoose.org or contact the North Carolina office at 919-806-4249.

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