

NCTA AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE G. K. BUTTERFIELD CELEBRATE 9TH TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

On June 2nd, the North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA) and U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield celebrated the completion of a \$190,000 Federal Improvement of Education (FIE) grant that enabled the NCTA Education Foundation to create a “Technology Demonstration Project” at Northside Elementary School in Norlina, North Carolina.

The NCTA Education Foundation purchased hardware and software both to replace outdated equipment with state-of-the-art equipment, and to purchase new technology previously not available for purchase by the school due to a lack of resources. In addition, the NCTA Education Foundation required teachers to undergo 50 hours of research-based professional development with The Centers for Quality Teaching and Learning to create a seamless integration of the technology tools in classroom learning.

Butterfield and Brooks Raiford, NCTA President & CEO were joined by more than 25 NCTA member companies, project partners, school administrators and political leaders to discuss the impact of the project on teachers and students at Northside. Attendees also participated in a school tour to observe students and teachers using the state-of-the-art equipment made available by the grant.

The NCTA Education Foundation Technology Demonstration Projects

Since its inception in 1998, The North Carolina Technology Association Foundation has been working to address the critical issue of 21st Century workforce development in North Carolina. As a part of this mission, we encourage the use of technology as a tool in education from preschool through lifelong learning. We believe that North Carolina students should be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and a comprehensive education to become world-class knowledge-based workers.

In order to support workforce development in our State by improving academic achievement of students in rural and low-wealth elementary schools, The NCTA Education Foundation established the Technology Demonstration Project program. Funded by US Department of Education grants with funds made possible through the efforts of our Congressional delegation, this initiative has provided technology tools and private sector commitment to implement technology plans of nine under-served school districts across the State. Over \$2 million has been directed to the Projects. (See chart below.) The goal of the Technology Demonstration Program is to allow individual schools to demonstrate the educational value of integrating technology as a tool in education.

NCTA Education Foundation Technology Demonstration Projects

FY02 Price (4th) District Senator Edwards Orange County Efland Cheeks Elementary \$250,000 Project Director, Michelle Calton	FY05 (Coble (6th) District Senators Dole and Burr Moore County Aberdeen Elementary \$250,000 Project Director, Sheila Mitchiner	FY05 Etheridge (2nd) District Senators Dole and Burr Johnston County McGee's Crossroads \$250,000 Project Director, Leroy Wray
FY03 Miller (13th) District Senators Edwards and Dole Person County Oak Lane Elementary \$250,000 Project Director, Michelle Calton	FY05 Taylor (11th) District Senators Dole and Burr Haywood County Riverbend Elementary \$250,000 Project Director, Sheila Mitchiner	FY08 Foxx (5th) District Senators Dole and Burr Alexander County Taylorsville Elementary \$95,305 Project Director, Sheila Mitchiner
FY04 Coble (6th) District Senators Edwards and Dole Randolph County Liberty Elementary \$250,000 Project Director, Sheila Mitchiner	FY05 (McIntyre (7th) District Senators Dole and Burr Robeson County Southside/Ashpole Elementary \$250,000 Project Director, Jamai Blivin	FY09 Butterfield (1st) District FY09 Hayes (8th) District Senator Burr Warren County Northside Elementary \$190,000 Project Director, Sheila Mitchiner

Technology Demonstration Project Effectiveness

External evaluations which include quantitative as well as qualitative data show that the Technology Demonstration Projects have fulfilled the Project goals and objectives. Principals from the past two projects have commented on the Project effectiveness:

“Our goal was to increase technology literacy among students and technology integration among teachers and the community,” said Northside Principal Jamar Perry. “Through this grant we were able to reach our goal. Teachers are engaged in technology, instruction is collaborative and differentiated but most of all our student engagement has increased and students are showing a greater motivation to learn.”

“I wanted to see greater enthusiasm for teaching and learning; help students acquire the skills needed in the 21st century; provide teachers with the tools they need in the classroom...students showing more motivation to learn and...more collaboration among the staff,” said Taylorsville Principal Susan Campbell. “The Project has turned my vision into a reality.”

NCTA Member Involvement

By providing very competitive pricing or in-kind gifts, NCTA member companies have enabled the NCTA Foundation to leverage grant funding to provide excellent quality services and equipment to the nine projects. The NCTA Foundation appreciates the contributions of the following member companies who have participated in the Technology Demonstration Projects: Accenture; ACS Software; Alphanumeric Systems, Inc.; Cii Associates; Dell, EMC Corporation; ExplorNet/The Centers for Quality Teaching and Learning; Hart, Inc.; HP; IBM; JWS Consulting, Inc.; Lenovo; The United Way of the Greater Triangle Teaming For Technology and The Whitlock Group.

Future Projects

Going forward, the NCTA Education Foundation will not be pursuing grants for additional projects, but will be working closely with existing partners and the NC STEM Collaborative as that organization picks up the effort. A special thanks to Debby Bryant of The Ferguson Group who represented NCTA in the federal appropriations process along the way; she will continue to work with the partners on future efforts.