



NEWS RELEASE
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Partnership Begins Annual Campaign For Public Education

Raleigh – Cynthia Marshall, president of AT&T North Carolina, will serve as chairman of the Wake Education Partnership's 2008-2009 annual fundraising campaign to support public education.

Marshall's involvement was announced today (Friday 9/19) at the annual meeting of the Wake Education Partnership. The Partnership marked its 25th year by honoring 25 individuals who were critical in the merger and integration of Wake County's public schools during the past three decades.

More than 600 business leaders, educators and elected officials attended the event at NCSU's McKimmon Center.

The Partnership intends to raise at least \$850,000 during this year's annual fundraising campaign to support Wake County's schools.

The organization's primary goals are to retain effective teachers, develop effective leaders and guarantee every student attends a safe and healthy school that allows for quality learning and teaching.

The campaign began today with significant donations from RBC Bank, MeadWestvaco, Lifetouch, the Goodnight Educational Foundation and \$100,000 from AT&T.

"Public education literally saved my life," Marshall told the group. "My teachers, my principals, my counselors didn't care that I was poor or that I lived in the housing projects."

"They just saw someone they thought could some day could be valedictorian of her class, receive a full scholarship to college, be the first in her family to graduate from college and then go on to be a state president for one of the world's largest companies. That is the impact you can have when you support public education."

Marshall, who lives in Cary, began her career with Pacific Bell in 1981 when the company was a regional phone service provider.

She held a variety of positions through the years before she was named in 2007 to oversee North Carolina's AT&T operations.

She will work with the Partnership throughout the coming year as part of its fundraising efforts.

About Wake Education Partnership

Wake Education Partnership is an advocacy organization dedicated to making world-class schools possible in Wake County through business and community involvement. We play a critical role in bringing people

together, raising the level of discussion through capacity building, and brokering information and relationships around key issues in public education. Programs for 2007-08 focus on retaining effective teachers, developing effective education leaders, and ensuring healthy schools for all students. For more information, please visit www.WakeEdPartnership.org.

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