

WakeEd **PARTNERSHIP**

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025



A Message from our President

Each year, I'm reminded of the extraordinary power of a united community. This Annual Impact Report tells a story far greater than numbers—it reflects the unwavering commitment of our donors, partners, volunteers, and champions for public education.

Because of your support, WakeEd Partnership mobilized hundreds of businesses, connected thousands of educators and students to resources, and amplified the vital message that strong public schools are the heart of a thriving Wake County. From Tools4Schools to Partners Read, SummerSTEM to career exploration, your generosity made the difference.

We believe every student deserves access to world-class learning opportunities. Thanks to you, we're not just imagining that future—we're building it.

Keith Poston,
President, WakeEd Partnership



SummerSTEM

SummerSTEM is a program that enriches educators' understanding of the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the workplace using Project-Based Learning (PBL) with an emphasis on STEM businesses and careers. In addition to direct instruction and coaching in lesson design, K-12 educators participate in immersive experiences with local companies, exploring targeted career fields they can take back to the classroom.



10

**Partnering
businesses**

29

**Schools participated
in the program**

69

**Teachers
participated**



STEMposium



44 Teachers
presented

52 Students
presented

25 Schools
participated

Career *Accelerator*

Career Accelerator is a workforce development program launched in 2022 created to provide rising high school students in 10th through 12th grades with immersive experiences with local companies, exploring a variety of career fields. This free summer program is hosted at local high schools across Wake County. All rising 10th through 12th grade students are invited to participate. In addition to immersion experiences, students receive coaching and instruction in other workforce development areas, such as CV building, social media use, and interviewing skills. Students receive a monetary stipend upon completion of key program elements, including industry certificates and/or credentials.

467

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

42

PARTNER BUSINESSES

411

MICRO-CREDENTIALS
COMPLETED



Partners Read

Partners Read places community volunteers into Wake County elementary schools to read with developing 1st grade readers. Volunteers have the unique opportunity to develop one-on-one relationships with students through Partners Read, as they help them increase confidence and enjoyment in reading. Additionally, students add the books that they have read with their partners to their personal libraries. Today we have volunteers in 60+ schools across Wake County.



560

Students Served

302

Volunteers

62

Schools

97.1%

Of Site Coordinators believe that Partners Read helped improve literacy rates at their school site

97.1%

Of Site Coordinators believe that Partners Read had a positive impact on the social-emotional wellbeing of their participating students



LEVEL UP LITERACY



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Level Up Literacy trains community volunteers to provide high-dosage 1:1 literacy tutoring to elementary students in Wake County Public Schools.

332 Students received
1:1 tutoring

34 Schools hosted 1:1
tutoring programs

194 Volunteers worked
with students

1,900

Tutoring hours across 3,700 Level Up Literacy tutoring sessions in less than 13 weeks of programming

97%

Of students showed improvement according to progress check data, regardless of which component of literacy was focused on



Tools4Schools

Tools4Schools is a free classroom supply store open to all Wake County Public School teachers to help provide students with all the classroom supplies necessary for success.





5,540

**Shopping trips
completed by educators**

100%

Wake County Public Schools served

\$569,031

Given away in school supplies

93.8%

**Educators agree that Tools4Schools
has reduced out-of-pocket spending**

9,253

**Educators in the
Tools4Schools system**





**I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR ANY SUPPORT GIVEN TO
TEACHERS TO HELP GET SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR
THEIR STUDENTS. THE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE
WAS WELL ORGANIZED. IT WAS EASY TO SHOP.
THE SHELVES WERE WELL STOCKED. THERE WAS
A GOOD VARIETY OF SUPPLIES TO CHOOSE FROM.**



\$1,602,470

**Given away in school supplies
since we opened
Tools4Schools**

PITTARD SCHOLARSHIP

The **Coach Bob Pittard Scholarship Fund** is available to graduating student athletes from Green Hope High School and Apex High School who, during their high school years, earned a varsity letter for participation in a full season in a varsity sport.

17

Scholars

\$12,500

Awarded to each scholar

\$212,500

Total awarded this year



WakeEd **PARTNERSHIP**

Stars OF EDUCATION

Stars of Education is WakeEd Partnership's annual awards gala that celebrates Wake County's education champions. The event is also WakeEd Partnership's largest annual fundraiser, raising critical funds for programs and initiatives.

FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD & HALL OF FAME CLASS 2024



Valencia Hicks Harris
EDUCATION



Barb Walsh
COMMUNITY



Sara Maria Blanton
ARTS



Brad Wilson
BUSINESS



Mark Indermaur
ATHLETICS



Community Workforce Solutions
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Representative Rosa Gill
VERNON MALONE FRIEND
OF EDUCATION

Community Awards Recipients 2024



Nabiha Rahman
EMERGING STAR



Aneesa McKenzie-Thompson
STAR AMONG US

Stars OF EDUCATION

Presented by  Martin
Marietta

360

Gala Attendees

\$124,702

Funds raised



Top Funders

Wake County Public School System

John Rex Endowment

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Martin Marietta Materials, Inc.

Salem Elrahal

Women's Giving Network of Wake County, an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation

UNC Health

4 Others Foundation

Amgen Foundation

Wolfspeed

Goodnight Educational Foundation

Raleigh Chamber of Commerce

SAS Institute

Raleigh Wealth Solutions

Aetna

BASF

Tom Bradshaw and Mary Mac

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WakeEd.org
