

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DEF Paris Trip Winners Celebrate at Excellence in Education Event



Pictured Above: Billy and Monica McOwen of Manteo are headed to Paris. Theirs was the one lucky ticket drawn for the trip to Paris at DEF's Annual Excellence in Education Dinner, held Oct 1, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk. Billy purchased the ticket on his way in the door to the celebration where he and 33 others were being honored for their support for education. Representing the Manteo Rotary Club, Billy, as President, accepted the honor as Business Partner of the Year nominated by Manteo Elementary School.

The Dare Education Foundation (DEF) held their 3rd Annual Excellence in Education Celebration on Thursday, October 1, 6:00 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk.

Opening remarks by Amy Montgomery, DEF's Executive Director, focused on the fact that, "It's not trite, it's true. Education is the key. It's the key to our children's future, to our future, to quality of life in our community. Whether you are a parent of young children like myself or a retiree looking at the Outer Banks as a place to make a home, good schools are a hallmark of a community that cares about its people. Good schools attract good citizens, young and retired, and that makes Dare County a wonderful place to live."

Dr. Sue Burgess, Superintendent of Dare County Schools, delivered the keynote address and provided details about recent and outstanding school district accomplishments and the importance of support from organizations like the Dare Education Foundation, volunteers and business partners, too.

Dr. Burgess described education in our community as her top priority and her passion. Burgess received applause when she borrowed from Jim Collins, author of Good To Great, speaking about the notion that "Good is the enemy of great."

Montgomery and Burgess together commented on the fact that Dare County has good schools, some of the best in the state. To a room full of business partners, community leaders, dedicated volunteers and school staff, the evening's message was clear. The Dare County Board of Education and the Dare Education Foundation share the same premise and goal - Good is just not good enough for our students and together, let's all work toward the best possible education for every student in every school in Dare County Schools.

The dinner event was generously sponsored by Dominion North Carolina Power and East Carolina Bank, with special thanks to the Hilton Garden Inn. These generous sponsors covered the cost for dinner for invited guests.

A total of 34 honorees received a framed print of artwork (pictured below) created by local artist Glenn Eure. A donation by the East Carolina Bank enabled DEF to commission Glenn Eure to create the collage that is now given annually to DEF Excellence in Education honorees.



Pictured Above: Bryant Brooks, Senior Manager of External Affairs for Dominion NC Power, accepts DEF's 2009 Excellence in Education Award. This honor is given annually to an individual or organization in recognition of leadership, significant effort and support that has resulted in lasting impact for the best education possible for students in Dare County Schools.

Lynda Wood, Dare Education Foundation Board Chair, presented DEF's 2009 Excellence in Education Award to Bryant Brooks and Michael Thompson of Dominion North Carolina Power. Lynda presented the award, telling the over 125 people in attendance that, "Dominion North Carolina Power has supported multiple DEF endeavors that promote excellence in education in our community. Not only has Dominion North Carolina Power been the top sponsor of this celebration for the past three years, they also made a substantial financial contribution to Run Hill Ridge, DEF's teacher apartments. As a show of further support for education here in Dare County, Dominion North Carolina Power also provides the use of their facility in Kitty Hawk for the start of the Outer Banks Marathon, man power on race morning, and a cash sponsorship. Dominion North Carolina Power's cash sponsorship for the marathon helps DEF offset event

costs which increases net proceeds to invest back into promoting excellence in education for Dare County Schools' students.”

Annually, in preparation for the celebration, the Dare Education Foundation asks every school in the district to nominate a volunteer of the year and a business partner of the year.

Volunteers of the Year who were honored include Beverly Boswell (FFHS), Roxanne Cleary and Dee Davis (MMS), Laura Daniels (MES), Tom Filkins (MHS), Vern Gilbert and Dave Haynes (DCAS), Emily Hess (FFMS), Dan and Jennifer Johnson (CHES), Paul Kelly (NHES), Antoinette Mattingly (CHSS), Bill Pfeifer (KHES) and Linda Staples (FFES)

Business Partners of the Year honored include Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Cooperative, Jim Kinghorn (CHSS), DeBoy Construction, John DeBoy (FFES), Equine Adventures, Sylvia Mattingly (DCAS), Food Lion, Rick Chance (NHES), Food Lion, Ron Petty (KHES), Little Caesars, Patty Ross (MMS), Manteo Rotary Club, William McOwen (MES) Manteo Woman's Club, Ann Bell (MHS), Rack Room Shoes, Tracy Hooper (FFHS), Stack 'Em High, Steve Kiouisis (FFMS), and the US Coast Guard, Irena Bolyn (CHES).

Also recognized, were the eleven Teachers of the Year representing each of the schools, including Ashley Bahen (DCAS), Lee Beasley (NHES), Suzanne Blackstock (FFMS) John Buford (FFES), Felicia Byrum (MMS), Cathy Copes (CHES), David Dvorin (KHES) Dawn Edwards (FFHS), Mari Beth LaRose (MES), Sean McCroskey (CHSS), and Frank Vrablic (MHS).

The Dare Education Foundation (DEF) is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that works in partnership with Dare County Schools to promote excellence in education. DEF believes that the best education possible for every student provides a solid foundation for a strong and vibrant quality of life in Dare County. In order to achieve this, DEF partners with the community and raises funds from private donations large and small, grants, sponsorships, and special events. DEF's collaborative efforts enrich education for all students and encourage community involvement in education.

For more information about the Dare Education Foundation and to make a tax deductible contribution, visit www.dareeducationfoundation.org or call 252-255-5545.