

NEWS RELEASE

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THE WACHOVIA FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO DEF



Pictured Above: Taylor Sugg of Wachovia Corporation presents a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 from The Wachovia Foundation to Amy Montgomery, Executive Director of the Dare Education Foundation. The Wachovia Foundation recently awarded the grant to the Dare Education Foundation to help implement the AVID program in Dare County Schools.

The Dare Education Foundation is a community-funded foundation that helps maximize student potential by providing resources to benefit students and teachers in all Dare County Schools. One of the goals of DEF is to help close the achievement gap among students in Dare County

Schools by providing support and opportunities for would-be first generation college students, minorities and students with limited means.

The Dare Education Foundation is currently partnering with The Wachovia Foundation and Dare County Schools to help implement the AVID program in all Dare County middle and high schools.

“This generous grant from The Wachovia Foundation will help make it possible to fully implement the AVID program at First Flight High School this fall. Last year, The Foundation Wachovia awarded us the same grant that enabled us to put AVID in place at Manteo High School and Cape Hatteras High School”, said Amy Montgomery, DEF’s Executive Director. “With this 2nd grant from The Wachovia Foundation, AVID is now in place in every secondary school in Dare County,” Montgomery concluded.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a research-based national program that has been in existence for 25 years. AVID targets students in the academic middle — B, C, and even D students — who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families. AVID pulls these students out of their unchallenging courses and puts them on the college track: acceleration instead of remediation.

“We are pleased to make this investment in the youth of our community. We know that this grant will help make a difference in the lives of Dare County students for years to come”, added Taylor Sugg of Wachovia Bank.

Nationally, 95% of AVID graduates go on to college and 75% earn a four-year degree – nearly three times the rate of non-AVID students. What’s more, the entire student body benefits from enhanced school-wide instructional strategies and the creation of a college-going culture.

This year, with the help of The Wachovia Foundation, DEF will help train teachers in the AVID curriculum, purchase curriculum materials in support of program implementation, support tutor training and reimbursement, and fund enrichment activities for students.

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For more information about the Dare Education Foundation, visit www.dareeducationfoundation.org or contact Amy Montgomery at 255-5545.