

## NEWS RELEASE

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### MHS AVID STUDENTS IMPRESS THEIR BENEFACTOR



**Pictured Above:** MHS AVID students pictured with their teacher (far right, back row) and benefactor, Taylor Sugg of Wachovia Corporation (far left, back row).

In May of 2007, the Wachovia Foundation awarded a \$10,000.00 grant to the Dare Education Foundation to put the AVID Program in place at Manteo High School (MHS). 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.

The students pictured above were the first group of AVID students, beginning their journey as 7<sup>th</sup> graders at Manteo Middle School (MMS) when the program began there during the 2005-2006

school year. Now 9<sup>th</sup> graders at MHS, this group of students are fortunate to have the support of the Wachovia Foundation. The grant awarded by the Wachovia Foundation to the Dare Education Foundation helped make sure that the program followed these students from MMS to MHS.

“Meeting these students for the first time was an inspiring experience”, said Taylor Sugg of Wachovia. “Listening to 9<sup>th</sup> graders talk about realistic college and career plans really impressed me. These students have goals and are preparing for their futures. The AVID program is definitely helping to develop the type of graduate that businesses like Wachovia are looking for.”

AVID students are selected in middle school base on their ability to complete rigorous course work, but who are identified as 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 Corporation.

Nationally, 95% of AVID graduates go on to college and 75% earn a four-year degree – nearly three times the rate of similar 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 and the Dare Education Foundation, the AVID program also began at Cape Hatteras Secondary School (CHSS). Next fall, the program will follow First Flight Middle School AVID students to First Flight High School and in the fall of 2010, the program roll-out will be complete when the program follows CHSS middle school students to high school.

The students pictured above are the ones to watch. The positive results of the AVID program will be fully revealed when this group of students graduate in the spring of 2011 and announce their college plans.

In the meantime, AVID supporters like Wachovia and the Dare Education Foundation are enjoying watching these students grow not only as students, but as people.

Wachovia Corporation (NYSE:WB) is one of the nation’s largest diversified financial services companies, providing a broad range of retail banking and brokerage, asset and wealth management, and corporate and investment banking products and services. Wachovia has retail and commercial banking operations in 21 states with 3,400 retail banking offices from Connecticut to Florida and west to Texas and California. In addition, two core businesses operate under the Wachovia Securities brand name: retail brokerage with 768 offices in 48 states and service affiliate offices in Latin America, and corporate and investment banking serving clients in selected corporate and institutional sectors globally. Other nationwide businesses include mortgage lending in all 50 states and auto finance covering 46 states. Globally, Wachovia serves clients through more than 40 international offices. Online banking is available at [wachovia.com](http://wachovia.com); online brokerage products and services at [wachoviasec.com](http://wachoviasec.com); and investment products and services at [evergreeninvestments.com](http://evergreeninvestments.com). At March 31, 2007, Wachovia had assets of \$706.4 billion and market capitalization of \$105.3 billion.

The Dare Education Foundation is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that raises funds to help every student and every teacher in every public school in Dare County. DEF is funded by private donations large and small, grants, sponsorships, and special events. Funds are used to advance teacher training, create access to new educational opportunities for students, and provide support for innovative programs in our schools. DEF's efforts in putting "Schools First" enrich education for all our students and encourage community involvement in education, which we believe provide the foundation for a strong and vibrant quality of life in Dare County.

For more information about the Dare Education Foundation call 255-5545 or visit us on-line at [www.dareeducationfoundation.org](http://www.dareeducationfoundation.org).