

## NEWS RELEASE

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### AVID STUDENT FOR A DAY



**Pictured Above:** Taylor Sugg of Wachovia Bank, a Wells Fargo Company, enjoys being an AVID student for a day at FFHS. Students pictured left to right are Judith Corral and Emily Cross.

In October 2008, The Wachovia Foundation continued its support of the AVID program in Dare County Schools by awarding a \$10,000.00 grant to the Dare Education Foundation to put the AVID Program in place at First Flight High School. Last year, a grant from The Wachovia Foundation helped put AVID in place at Manteo High School and Cape Hatteras High School. With this 2<sup>nd</sup> grant from The Wachovia Foundation, AVID is now in place in every secondary school in Dare County.

“Every time I visit an AVID classroom, I leave in awe of the incredible student growth that is taking place. This time, I participated in a skyping experience where high school AVID students mentored middle school AVID students about the transition to high school. The use of technology to meet over the internet and the meaningful interaction between the students was inspiring. I am pleased to know that Wachovia is helping to provide AVID students with this life changing experience,” said Taylor Sugg, Wachovia Market President.

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.

AVID students are selected in middle school based 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 partner with the Dare Education Foundation 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 Sugg.

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.

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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).