

NEWS RELEASE

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THE WACHOVIA WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION PROVIDES LOYAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS



Pictured Above: Taylor Sugg of Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company, presents a check in the amount of \$7,500.00 from the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation to Amy Montgomery, Executive Director of the Dare Education Foundation. The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation recently awarded the grant to the Dare Education Foundation, continuing their loyal support for the implementation of the AVID program in Dare County Schools.

One of the goals of the Dare Education Foundation is to help close the achievement gap among students and create a college/career ready culture in Dare County Schools by providing support and opportunities for average achievers, would-be first generation college students, minorities and students with limited means.

To achieve this goal, the Dare Education Foundation is partnering with the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation and Dare County Schools to help implement the AVID program in all Dare County middle and high schools to.

“The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation has been a loyal supporter of this initiative, granting nearly \$30,000.00 to help put this needed program in place for local students. One hundred and eighty-four (184) students throughout the district are now enrolled in the AVID program and on the college track due to the financial backing of the Wachovia Foundation,” said Amy Montgomery, Executive Director for the Dare Education Foundation.

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 and C 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 continue our support for this worthwhile program for Dare County Schools’ students. Wachovia is looking forward to celebrating with the first group of AVID graduates in 2011 and enjoying the success that our support of the AVID program has helped them achieve”, shared Taylor Sugg market president for Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company.

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 Wells Fargo 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.

The Dare Education Foundation (DEF) is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that works in partnership with Dare County Schools and generous community partners like The Wachovia Foundation 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, visit www.dareeducationfoundation.org or contact Amy Montgomery at 255-5545.

The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is a private foundation that provides grants to eligible 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to support the following focus areas: Education, Community Development, Health/Human Services, Arts/Culture, Civic and Environment. The mission of the Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation is to build strong and vibrant communities, improve the quality of life, and make a positive difference.