

**Piedmont Triad Partnership in collaboration with Piedmont Triad
Education Consortium support the following K-12 Programs:**

Graduation Project 2009: Senior Project Institute for 88 educators from 17 school systems in the Piedmont Triad Region. A two day session on planning and implementing a curricula design for assisting students implement meaningful senior projects. Discussion with the PTP staff on potential projects within the four industry clusters; Advanced Manufacturing, Health Care, Creative Enterprises and the Arts and Logistics/Distribution. Participants learn about sources for Senior Project mentors located in the Piedmont Triad area of North Carolina. Strategies for linking senior projects to real world 21st century skills were developed.

Dropouts: A Silent Epidemic Impacting the Piedmont Triad Economy: Over 200 attendees with a waiting list participated in discussions aimed at developing a series of programmatic responses to the drop out crisis. Discussion included educators and community based organizations to share examples of excellence for curbing drop outs and to identify how the Piedmont Triad can begin to address risk factors of dropping out:

- Personal characteristics and habits
- Family situations
- Peer and community relationships
- School climate and culture
- School connectedness
- School safety and attendance
- Alternative school environments
- School achievement

High School Counselors: Connecting Students to Jobs of the Future in the Piedmont Triad. Two, two day events to expose 75 high school counselors per session to high tech- high wage opportunities in the four industry cluster areas identified in the Piedmont Triad Partnership's WIRED funded program of work. Includes opportunities for high school counselors to learn about the four clusters, to connect with and learn from the cluster directors and industry leaders about jobs of the future and to analyze current school to work programs to determine if they meet 21st century standards.

"Be There: Adults Connecting With Students Equals Success" is an ongoing endeavor with brochures and banners to engage adults with the children to prevent high school drop out. This effort is supported by Bank of America Charitable Foundation

"Working With Achievement Gap Students to be Ready for the Workplace" In 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, 153 Participants received materials and books with a presentation by Dr. Larry Bell and received .6 CEU.

Retaining The Best Young Teachers In the Piedmont Triad: Research has shown that highly qualified teachers have the most powerful impact on whether or not students learn. Yet, throughout the Piedmont Triad, school districts struggle to keep these teachers. There is a particularly high rate of teacher turnover during the first five years of their careers. Recruiting teachers to this area is certainly important, but stopping the leakage of those leaving needs emergency action. A recent report from the National Center for Educational Statistics reveals that programs offering support and assistance to novice teachers can positively affect them remaining in the classroom. Accustomed to social networking and collaborative environments, today's young educators seem naturally inclined toward group structures where they can collaborate on issues and problems that plague them as well as master new learning with others of their generation. This experience is designed to help our brightest neophyte teachers find the connections they crave—connections to their school district, their community and the Piedmont Triad region so that retention is a given.

School to Work Programs of the Piedmont Triad School Districts and Evaluation Results:

In 2007 the K-12 school districts in the Piedmont Triad provided a sampling of school to work programs that use curriculum materials, specialized learning experiences, unique school/business partnerships, internships and mentorships to develop knowledge and skills in the real world contexts. In 2008 senior leaders in the 17 Piedmont Triad school districts were surveyed to determine success rates in utilizing the publication "School to Work Programs in Piedmont triad School Districts" as a stimulus to implement job-ready programs for students. Then data was gathered regarding job ready extension programs/strategies that are occurring beyond those described in the publication.