2008-09 Wakefield Business Alliance Breakfast with Wakefield Middle and High Schools

CONGRATULATIONS! ***You have made a difference.***
In reviewing recent statistics of how educators, Business Alliance members and local businesses have impacted our children at Wakefield Middle School (WMS) and Wakefield High School (WHS) the following results became apparent.

Did you know that last year set new records for Wakefield and Wake County?

- **145** WHS students completed **Internships** involving **115** business partners
- **2700** WHS students were involved in **Friday Fairs** with **145** businesses
- **386** WMS students and **345** businesses were involved in **Job Shadow Days**
- **More than 1200** WMS students were involved in **Career College** involving **103** businesses
- **450** WMS students were involved with **Speaker's Bureau** involving 23 businesses *plus* **1782** WHS students involving another **18** businesses
- **180** students and **10 alliance members** participated in **the Great Xplorations Career Fair** at **NCSUs McKimmon Center**
- **60 students** practiced interview skills, met with career professionals and identified job opportunities through the assistance of **15 alliance members at Xtreme Beginnings**
- **450 9th graders** participated in the **Just Think First** presentations through **a $5000 donation from Rex Healthcare to the Poe Health Center**
- **600 9th graders** were exposed to job seeking skills and opportunities through the first ever **Wakefield Wednesdays** with **12 businesses** in attendance
- **Through alliance support 135 students** participated in **internship** activities
- **Mentor sessions with WMS**
    - **3 businesses worked with students in math classes**
- **Character Education program entitled Hand-to-Hand Program**
    - **17 teachers**
    - **511 students -**
    - **145 businesses**
- **Held Joint breakfast with WMS and WHS teachers**
    - **All staff (300)**
    - **8 businesses**

NEW Activities Targeted for 2008/2009

- **Freshman Focus to keep the kids in school and motivated**
    - The on-time graduation rate is 66% in NC, 69% in US, and 82% in Wake County
    - In Wake County, the number of students with intention to attend post-secondary education is 75-90%
    - If we can keep them in school, they will value education. This is why there is such a push to address borderline freshmen.

- **Graduation Project support – 3 members drafted a mentor recruitment brochure last year**
- **More Developed Speaker's Program**
- **Increase Businesses represented**

The Wakefield Business Alliance is considered the premier Business Alliance program in the region. However, rather than focusing on what we have accomplished, we need to focus on the possibilities we have yet to achieve. We invite you to participate in activities to connect students to their educational and career futures. It has been proven that education that has relevance to the individual creates a higher level of retention. We are here to support you in this endeavor. Please return your surveys indicating the ways that we can assist. (Collect surveys and begin door prize drawings)