My name is Barbara Wiggins, Career Development Coordinator. I am here to encourage working professionals to become active members of your child's school community. Through the **Wakefield Business Alliance**, a small amount of donated time and expertise can make a huge difference.

For example,

- Last year, companies **donated 2 hours over <u>one</u> lunch period**…to expose 2700 WHS students to 127 companies in a variety of industries during **Wakefield's Friday Career Fairs**.

- **15** businesses supported the **Wakefield Speakers Bureau** and positively **impacted over 1000 students**.

- Another **152 WHS students completed Internships** made possible by **136 business partners**.

- Last spring **65 WHS students** and **11 business alliance** members participated in **Xtreme Beginnings** held at NCSU's McKimmon Center where 400 students and 300 career professionals gathered for a **career conference**.

- Wakefield students are recognized for their effective business etiquette after participation in the **Hand-to Hand program** where they are taught to make eye contact and professionally shake hands with business representatives. Throughout last year, this program involved **690 students and 133 businesses** and was well received by all. It allowed Wakefield students to set themselves apart in a positive, professional way that reinforced behavior through earned respect.

- **Wakefield Business Alliance** provides transition skills to prepare students to step through the doors of Wakefield High School and into their career futures. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to assist with **practice interviews, participate as a mentor, or share your expertise from the professional world.**

If you are interested in a **high return for your personal and professional investment**, please complete the Business Alliance form available in your classrooms. Additional information is available at www.wakefieldhs.net.