



eNEWS



Food For Thought

"If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you never will change the outcome."

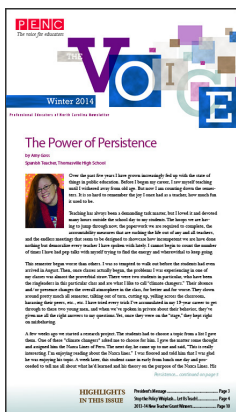
~ Michael Jordan (1963-)

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote education reform for the benefit of all North Carolina children while ensuring the recruitment, development and retention of qualified educators.

2014 Winter Voice

The Winter 2014 Voice is here! To access the issue, click the image below. For print copies, email us at admin@pencweb.org.



Join or Renew

Click [here](#) to join or renew.

Check out PENC's brochure:

Scholarship Deadline Extended!

The application deadline for the Professional Development Scholarships has been extended to **Friday, March 28, 2014**. PENC is offering two scholarships of UP TO \$250 each to active Support Level members who seek payment for or reimbursement towards registration fees or tuition for professional development opportunities such as workshops, higher education classes, conferences, and seminars.

For more information on this opportunity for Support Level members, please visit our [Scholarships and Grants page](#).

Maria Topliff Named 2014 NCVPS Teacher of the Year

Maria Topliff, an occupational course of study blended English II teacher and an American history instructional leader, has been named the 2014 North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) Teacher of the Year. This is the sixth year that the NCVPS has selected a Teacher of the Year. Topliff will represent the NCVPS in the National Online Teacher of the Year competition. To read more about her selection, [click here](#).

News from the State Board of Education

2014 NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey Underway

From March 10 through April 4, school-based licensed educators in all 115 North Carolina school districts and charter schools will have an opportunity to share their views regarding their working conditions on the 7th biennial statewide NC Teacher Working Conditions (TWC) Survey. The NC TWC Survey is designed to gather a variety of information from teachers, counselors, principals and other administrators about topics such as the adequacy of school facilities and resources, time, empowerment, school leadership, community support, student conduct, professional development, mentoring and induction services, and student learning. For more information, [click here](#).

Academic Achievement Levels Expand

The State Board of Education approved a change in March to the way that state test scores will be provided to students and their parents with a move from four achievement levels to five. This move will provide greater precision in reporting student performance. The new achievement level 3 will be considered to be "passing" although the student may not be demonstrating learning that is on track to be career- and college-ready. Some students, who under the previous model were at a high level 2, could move into level 3. Students at levels 1 and 2 would be considered below grade level and also offtrack in terms of career- and college-readiness. Level 1 and 2 students would be identified as those most in need of intervention. Any third grader below level 4 in reading will be eligible to attend summer reading camp with parental approval. This change will be in place for the tests students take at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

- Achievement Level 1:** Limited Command
- Achievement Level 2:** Partial Command
- Achievement Level 3:** Sufficient Command
- Achievement Level 4:** Solid Command; Career- and College-Ready
- Achievement Level 5:** Superior Command; Career- and College-Ready

Spring Tuition Awards Available for Special Education Teachers

Limited spring tuition awards are available for special education teachers working toward meeting provisional license requirements. Under this tuition program, employed bachelor-level special education teachers with a provisional license may receive the actual cost of tuition for one approved spring course to cover up to

PENC Scholarships

The application deadline for the Professional Development Scholarships has been extended to **Friday, March 28th**. For more information on the application process and requirements, be sure to check out our [Scholarships and Grants Page](#).

Workshops

Below is a list of National Board, Retirement and School Interpreter workshops. If you have questions regarding our offerings, please contact us at workshops@pencweb.org.

National Board Workshops

2013-2014 National Board Workshop Information

Registration is now open for the following date:

- Saturday, March 22, 2014 - [Initial Certification Workshop](#): PENC Office, Raleigh (Wake County)
- Saturday, March 22, 2014 - [Renewal Training Workshop](#): PENC Office, Raleigh (Wake County)
- Saturday, March 29, 2014 - [Initial Certification Workshop](#): PENC Office, Raleigh (Wake County)

If you have questions regarding our offerings, please contact us at workshops@pencweb.org.

For more information, visit our [Calendar Page](#).

Retirement Workshops

The Educational Retirement Group of the Retirement Systems Division with the Department of State Treasurer will be conducting retirement conferences for members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS). The following are open to any employee seeking information regarding retirement benefits of the TSERS. Additional information and dates are available by clicking [here](#).

Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m.

March 26, 2014
Forsyth County Agriculture Building Auditorium C
1450 Fairchild Rd.
Winston Salem, NC

April 9, 2014
Lockhart-Taylor Center
Ingram Community room



Membership Form

Click [here](#) for a printable Membership Form.

Who We Are

To learn more about PENC, click [here](#).

Contact PENC

For a listing of PENC Staff, click [here](#).

\$140 per semester hour as long as they earn a final grade of "B" or higher. If the tuition is above the \$140 per semester hour rate, it will be the responsibility of the recipient to pay the difference. These awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis as long as federal grant funds are available. Copies of this application packet are available to download [here](#).

The 25%: Tenure and Four Year Contracts FAQ

This fall there has been much discussion about how and when counties will select the honored 25% as required by the legislature in the [state budget bill, Appropriations Act of 2013, S 402](#). We know that educators have many questions and that school systems are struggling to pin down a fair process they can use to select the 25%. You will find answers to a variety of questions that members have been asking on our [FAQ Page](#).

While we do not agree with the recent legislation surrounding the selection of 25%, we have been asked to offer feedback and ideas. To accurately share our members thoughts and concerns with those making these very difficult decisions, we ask you to take our short survey, by clicking [HERE](#).

News from LEARN NC

Registration is open for spring online courses!

Hone your teaching skills by taking a professional development course from LEARN NC. LEARN NC is offering a full slate of Carolina Online Teacher (COLT) courses as well as courses in cultural awareness, ESL, literacy across the curriculum, and more!

Educators completing COLT courses will receive 2.0 – 3.0 Technology CEUs for renewal credit, while the America on the World Stage series offers subject-area CEUs for Social Studies. Check back often to see new additions to the [course schedule](#). LEARN NC will be adding new courses developed by LEARN NC partners.

SYNERGY 2014

SYNERGY 2014: The SYNERGY Decade: A Roadmap to Afterschool is just around the corner! Register today at the [NC Center for Afterschool Programs' \(NC CAP\) website](#) for the March 24-26, 2014 conference at the Hilton Charlotte University Place in Charlotte. SYNERGY will bring together over 500 afterschool and expanded learning providers and supporters for training and sharing of best practices.

NC CAP's SYNERGY conference is held in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs, NC Department of Public Instruction, Professional Educators of NC, Discovery Place, NC Department of Commerce, NC Department of Health and Human Services- Division of Child Development, NC Girls STEM Collaborative, C.S. Mott Foundation, and the Public School Forum of NC.

For more information, [click here](#).

Educator Opportunities

Public School Forum Hiring STEM Partnership Coordinator

The STEM Partnership Coordinator will work with NC CAP to create and sustain an integrated system of services, partnerships, programs and resources to support the afterschool/expanded learning programs in grades K-12 STEM enrichment program. The STEM Coordinator responsibilities include organizing, assisting, and promoting interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities through afterschool/expanded learning programs by integration of successful strategies and multiple technologies to promote high-tech learning, to ensure students gain the necessary edge to compete and succeed in the global economy. To learn more and apply, [click here](#).

Duke Energy Foundation STEM Grant Opportunity

Duke Energy Foundation recently announced a \$75,000 matching gift to DonorsChoose.org to assist teachers in the fields of science, technology,

514 N. Washington St.
Wadesboro, NC

April 16, 2014

Central Piedmont Community College
Pease Auditorium (ground floor of Library)
1200 Sam Ryburn Walk
Charlotte, NC

April 24, 2014

New Hanover County Government Center
HR Training Room B
230 Government Center Dr.
Wilmington, NC

Panoltia Workshops

School Interpreter Training Seminars

April 10 (Level I) - 8:30am - 4:30pm

May 7 (Level II) - 8:30am - 4:30pm

Professional Educators of North Carolina
Raleigh Office
309 West Millbrook Rd., Suite 111
Raleigh, NC 27609

Participant Prerequisites:

- Level I – Must be bilingual (English/Spanish)
- Level II – Must have successfully completed Interpreting For Educators – Level I

Fees:

- Level I – \$129 per person (includes a copy of "Manual For Interpreters In School Settings" published by Berkana Language Center and Panoltia, Inc., a \$50 retail value).
- Level II – \$99 per person

For more information and to register, visit www.panoltiatraining.com.

engineering and math (STEM).

According to program guidelines, public school teachers can submit STEM project proposals to DonorsChoose.org, where anyone can choose to help fund the project. When 50 percent of a project's request is funded through citizen donations, Duke Energy will contribute the remaining 50 percent for teachers in the company's North Carolina service areas.

Teachers should visit www.DonorsChoose.org/teachers to submit a project. Qualifying projects already posted to the site will automatically be eligible for Duke Energy's matching funds beginning March 3.

In North Carolina, Duke Energy Foundation invests \$16 million annually for community support and charitable contributions. To learn more about Duke Energy Foundation, visit www.duke-energy.com/community.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund Grant Opportunity: Informal Science and Mathematics Education Programs

The Student Science Enrichment Program (SSEP) provides support for creative, hands-on science and mathematics education activities. Awards provide up to \$180,000 over three years to improve primary and secondary students' competence in science, nurture their enthusiasm for science, and interest them in pursuing careers in research or other science-related areas.

These opportunities are limited to North Carolina and intended to support projects that provide creative science and mathematics enrichment activities for primary and secondary students who have shown exceptional skills and who are perceived to have high potential and interests in science. Eligible organizations include public and private schools, colleges and universities, community groups, museums, zoos, scientific groups, and others that can provide experiential activities for K-12 North Carolina students. Programs must take place outside of standard school time.

The application deadline is April 10, 2014. Visit bwfund.org for complete information and deadlines.

Edcamp Elon

Edcamp Elon will be held at Elon University on Saturday, April 19th, 2014. Edcamp Elon is a free unconference event where participants lead the discussion and learning. This innovative one-day event brings together educators who want to learn and share best practices. All are invited to attend!

For more information, [click here](#).

CEU Opportunities from the Hill Center

[The Hill Center](#) is offering professional development workshops this winter to help educators better understand learning differences by sharing research and evidence-based methodology to improve student success.

Upcoming Workshops

March 18, 2014: HillWrite (Hill Written Language Achievement Program) - 2 Days

March 26, 2014: iPads for Literacy Instruction

April 09, 2014: Understanding Learning Differences: An Introduction to Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorders

April 23, 2014: HillStrategies for Writing

April 25, 2014: HillStrategies for Reading

April 29, 2014: Multisensory Grammar

April 30, 2014: Phonological Awareness, Spelling, and Handwriting

Hill also offers online courses which are available [here](#).

Scholarships may be available for public school educators. Register today at www.hillcenter.org or contact Outreach Specialist Pam Hoggard, at 919-719-7551 or phoggard@hillcenter.org.