



North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

Annual Report 2011–2012



*From the mountains to the sea,
advancing teaching as an art and a profession*

Teaching—one of the most important jobs on the planet!

In 2011–2012, the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching sustained a drastic cut in its state appropriation. This could have been the end of NCCAT, but with the support of friends and colleagues throughout the state, we made it a new beginning.

The visionary leaders who created NCCAT more than 27 years ago recognized that great teaching is essential to high-quality education. We are proud of NCCAT's positive contributions to public education in North Carolina. Since NCCAT's inception in 1985, approximately 67,000 educators have been served by this organization. During this fiscal year, NCCAT served 1,317 educators in intensive professional development seminars and innovative programs, including training for integrating the Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards, and providing support for beginning teachers. Even more significant, NCCAT's instructional programs provided almost 40,000 contact hours for our state's teachers. Plus, we served an additional 975 educators from across the state who attended conferences and meetings at either our main campus in Cullowhee or our eastern campus on Ocracoke Island.

At NCCAT, we believe that when you treat people as if they make a difference, then they will. Every day, with the support of the NCCAT Board of Trustees and the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. Board of Directors, we strive to create an environment where faculty and staff are able to do what they do best to significantly improve public education in our state. By working together, we can help every teacher grow in knowledge, skills, compassion, and professionalism so that all North Carolina students become engaged, self-motivated, and successful.

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The New NCCAT: “Working on a Dream”

2011–2012 has been a year of significant transformation and innovation for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching—perhaps the two go hand in hand. A dramatic transformation came at the onset of the fiscal year with a sudden and deep cut to NCCAT’s state appropriation. With 90 percent of the operating budget coming from the appropriation, a series of difficult but necessary actions were immediately taken to stabilize the institution and ensure the continuation of the mission. Among these were a near 50 percent reduction in the center’s work force (RIF) and numerous operating efficiencies. Unfortunately, the severe and abrupt nature of the funding cut also necessitated a decrease in the number of instructional programs offered and teachers served for the 2011–2012 fiscal year.

Throughout 2011–2012 the NCCAT faculty and staff worked diligently to maximize the number of teachers served in high-quality professional development programs within the constraints of a drastically reduced budget. This challenge has led to numerous changes and innovative solutions including more on-site program delivery in school districts throughout the state, an intensification of work supported through grants and contracts, and the growing of strategic partnerships.

This spirit of innovation continues into 2012–2013 as we are increasingly inspired to experiment with new modes of program delivery, and the integration of critical thinking skills and new curriculum standards into all of the center’s professional development seminars and programs.

As we move forward, we are guided by a newly developed strategic plan that is not only focused on our vision for the future but also grounded in the carefully planned steps that will take us there. To borrow a line from a Bruce Springsteen song, we are “working on a dream.” This is a time of rebirth and new beginnings for an organization that was originally born from the dream of far-sighted and dedicated North Carolinians more than twenty-seven years ago.

Change is unsettling, and abrupt change even more so, but the dream that created NCCAT as an institution “to advance teaching as an art and a profession” is alive and well. The NCCAT of 2012 will not, and should not, look like the NCCAT of 1985, or 1995, or even 2005, but it *will* be forward focused, it *will* be visionary, and it *will* continue to advance teaching as an art and a profession.


Linda S. Suggs
Chair, Board of Trustees


Richard A. Schwartz
President, Development Foundation


M. Elaine Franklin
Executive Director

The Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc.

CREATE A LEGACY FOR TOMORROW

The Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. was established in 1994 to foster and promote the growth, progress, and general welfare of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching and to receive and administer gifts and donations for such purposes.

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our grant partners, sponsors, and donors, especially during these challenging economic times. Their financial commitment to NCCAT's instructional programming during the 2011–2012 fiscal year has provided much-needed support so that NCCAT can continue to inspire great teaching.

PROGRAM GRANTS

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

- \$125,000 in support of *NCCAT Connections*, a program for teachers in their first year in the classroom. This grant provided funding for teachers from school districts in Clay, Halifax, McDowell, Rockingham, and Swain counties.
- \$35,000 in support of "Connect to Your Future: Celebrating Success in the Classroom," a five-day residential seminar for teachers in their second or third year of teaching.

North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention

- \$144,816 in support of a North Carolina Dropout Prevention Grant. Grant funds supported the development and implementation of professional development programming for public school teachers focusing on dropout prevention. NCCAT's "Dropout Solutions: Review and Implementation of Best Practices from the Field" seminar primarily served educators from Tier 1 counties who work with youth at risk of academic failure.

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc.

- \$26,411 in support of NCCAT's Holocaust Education Program. Grant funds supported teachers participating in NCCAT's "Teaching the Holocaust: Resources and Reflections" seminar in Washington, DC.

Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel (Corporate Giving)

- \$25,000 in support of NCCAT's Cherokee Central Schools Pilot Program. Grant funds supported teachers from Cherokee Elementary School with professional development focusing on the Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards.

BB&T Charitable Foundation

- \$15,000 in support of NCCAT's *Teaching Students of the 21st Century Initiative*. Grant funds supported teachers participating in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professional development seminars.

Duke Energy Foundation

- \$12,500 in support of NCCAT's *Teaching Students of the 21st Century Initiative*. Grant funds supported teachers participating in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professional development seminars.

PROGRAM CONTRACTS

Bertie County Public Schools, Edgecombe County Public Schools, Halifax County Public Schools, and Hertford County Public Schools

These school systems participated in *NCCAT Connections*, a comprehensive yearlong induction program designed for teachers in their first year teaching.

Bertie County Public Schools, Cherokee Central Schools, and Macon County Public Schools

These school systems participated in NCCAT's customized professional development programming focusing on integrating Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards into the curriculum.

Communities in Schools North Carolina

CISNC partnered with NCCAT to facilitate several seminars to assist in the professional development of directors and site coordinators from across the state. The seminars were titled, "The Last Dropout," "Built to Lead, Built to Last," and (in FY 2012–2013) "People, Not Programs." These seminars highlight effective strategies for dropout prevention, the importance of building relationships and rapport with students, and effective leadership practices and techniques.

Johnston County Public Schools

Johnston County partnered with NCCAT to help beginning teachers gain a better understanding of the conditions of poverty. NCCAT's "Building an Awareness of the Needs of Children in Poverty" professional development program provided teachers with resources to address the issues and classroom barriers of poverty.

Kenan Fellows Program

The Kenan Fellows Program for Curriculum and Leadership Development partnered with NCCAT for the development and implementation of a seminar designed to investigate best practices in technology-based projects.

Sandhills Regional Education Consortium

SREC partnered with NCCAT to host the Sandhills Leadership Academy to provide two programs for aspiring principals in the region with an alternative route to obtain administrative licensure.

UNC General Administration

UNC GA partnered with NCCAT to provide support for beginning teachers in the North Carolina New Teachers Support Program to help first-year teachers develop the tools, instructional strategies, and professional support they need to positively impact student learning.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In October 2011, Alfred and Anita Schnog hosted a fundraising event in Wilmington to support NCCAT's Holocaust Education Program.

In December 2011, the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. hosted the NCCAT Alumni and Friends Holiday Gathering in Asheville with major sponsorship from the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association Charitable Foundation, and the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program on behalf of Mr. Robert E. Merritt and Mrs. Cama C. Merritt.

In June 2012, the seventh annual A. Craig Phillips "Old Fossil" Golf Tournament was held in Southern Pines in honor of Dr. A. Craig Phillips, former superintendent of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction from 1969 to 1989. This event raised funds for the third Honored Educator Scholarship in Phillips' name.

GOLDEN APPLE SCHOOLS

When teachers return to their classrooms after participating in an NCCAT seminar, they often join a larger community of NCCAT alumni. Frequently, this cadre of teacher leaders recognizes that the NCCAT experience has contributed significantly to their personal and professional lives, and they look for ways to give back to NCCAT. In fiscal year 2011–2012, all of the alumni in seventeen schools contributed to the NCCAT Annual Fund, thus achieving Golden Apple School status. Thirteen of these schools have achieved this recognition consecutively, ranging from two to fifteen years.

HONORED EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIPS

NCCAT's Honored Educator Scholarship Program gives tribute to outstanding individuals and educators by providing scholarship funds in their names. Scholarship funds can be named in honor of classroom teachers, coaches, administrators, school board members, or community volunteers—anyone who has made a positive difference in the field of education. Donors can establish scholarships with preference for teachers from a geographic area or an academic discipline. NCCAT administers each scholarship that reaches the endowment goal of \$25,000.

These scholarships make it possible for NCCAT to serve more teachers by supplementing the annual state budget. Each fully endowed scholarship is awarded annually to a North Carolina teacher, who also receives a \$250 cash award for a classroom project. To make a donation honoring these educators or to start a new scholarship fund, please contact the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. at foundation@nccat.org.

Honored Educator Scholarships for Teachers in these Counties

Boldface indicates funds have reached the \$25,000 level as of June 30, 2012.

Mary Jo Allen: Teacher of the Year/Edgecombe County

Mary Jo Allen: Hertford County

William M. and Carol H. Bass: Statewide

The Belk Foundation: Statewide

Robert E. and Hattie H. Bridges: Wake County

Robert E. Bridges: Cary Academy

George R. Brinson: Pamlico County

Marjorie T. and John S. Britt: Statewide

Brian Bryson: Jackson County

William Byrum: Teacher of the Year/Perquimans County

Jerry Lea Cole and Elizabeth Long Cole in honor of

William Edward Niven: Caswell County

Anne Marie Collins: Alamance County

Dare County Schools: Teacher of the Year/Dare County

Boyce T. Deitz: Swain County

Devonwood Foundation: Durham Academy

Mary Jane Coward Dillard: Jackson County

Duplin County Schools: Teacher of the Year/Duplin County

Jerome D. Franson: Statewide

Luz M. Frye: Foreign Language Teachers

Karen Gerringer: Principal Fellows Interns

Guilford County Schools: Teacher of the Year/Guilford County

John F. and Emy Swindell Hinnant: Wilson County

Elsie Brame Hunt and Norma Henderson Leonard: Wilson County

Phillip J. Kirk Jr.: Rowan-Salisbury Schools

Phillip J. and Margaret Simmons Kirk: Statewide

Mary D. McDuffie: Statewide

Susan S. McHugh: Polk County

Mabel Roberson McIntyre: Nash and Wilson Counties

Lynda Petty: Randolph County*

A. Craig Phillips: Statewide**

Jean P. Powell: Clinton City and Sampson County

A. M. Primm: Alamance County

Eugene and Jean Rogers: Martin County

Richard A. Schwartz: Statewide

Scotland County Schools: Teacher of the Year/Scotland County

Gracia and John Slater Family: Jackson and Henderson Counties

Simon F. Terrell: Durham, Orange, Wake, Warren Counties*

Richard L. Thompson: Statewide

Beulah Padgett Whichard: Clay and Durham Counties

Willis P. Whichard: Statewide

C. Fletcher Womble Jr.: Cumberland County

An asterisk (*) indicates a second Honored Educator Scholarship has been initiated.

Two asterisks (**) indicate that a second Honored Educator Scholarship has been fully funded.

FINANCIALS 2011–2012

STATE BUDGET

Personnel	\$ 3,102,230*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wages, salaries, and benefits for 46 full-time and part-time employees, 4 hourly employees. <i>*Note: This includes \$408,238 of severance reimbursement from the state in non-recurring funds</i>	
Substitute Teachers and Visiting Presenters	102,076
Current Services	251,602
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other services, including maintenance contracts and services, utilities, telephone, building and equipment repairs, travel, printing, and contracted food services	
Supplies	67,362
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program materials, books, videos, food products, office supplies, cleaning materials, and maintenance materials for building and grounds	
Equipment and Technology	12,220
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Furnishings, computers, network and infrastructure upgrades, and office equipment	
Fixed Charges	<u>62,318</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insurance, rental agreements, professional publications, and memberships	
TOTAL: \$ <u>3,597,808</u>	

HOW THE 2011–2012 BUDGET WAS SPENT

68.6%—Seminars and Programs

Planning, registration, lodging services, visiting presenters, staff services, substitute teachers, supplies and materials, teacher and staff travel, and teacher services

24.6%—Direct Support Services

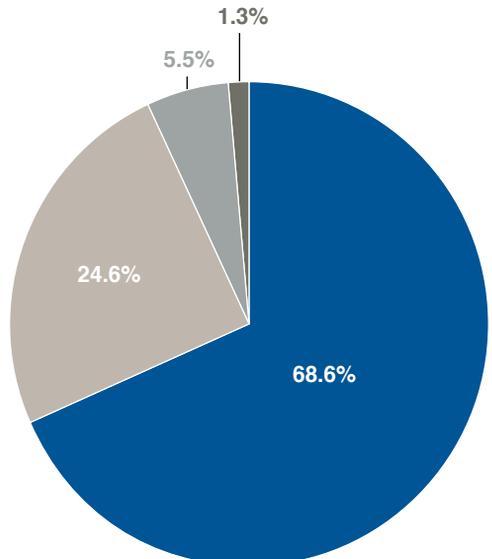
Dining services, building and grounds maintenance, repairs, minor improvements, cleaning, utilities and telephone equipment, and contracted services

5.5%—Administration

Management, planning, reporting, budget, policy analysis, and personnel

1.3%—Development

Administrative costs and expenses of the Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc.



FINANCIALS 2011–2012

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF NCCAT INC.

The Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. is a 501(c)(3) that was established to help the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching more effectively leverage state resources. This has enabled NCCAT to attain matching funds and to participate in cost-sharing programs with a host of entities, resulting in numerous partnerships with school systems, educational agencies, and public and private funders.

The generous support of North Carolina's state government serves as a baseline budget for NCCAT's innovative instructional programming. Through the additional support of friends, private foundations, and corporate partners, NCCAT is able to provide highly effective professional development for North Carolina's public school teachers. We offer our sincere appreciation for the generous gifts from many organizations and individuals during the 2011–2012 fiscal year. These contributions reflect their commitment to the vital role NCCAT plays in strengthening public education in North Carolina.

Income

Honored Educator Scholarship and Holocaust Education Endowments	\$ 71,262
Annual Fund	173,512
Investment Income	(30,044)

Subtotal **\$ 214,730**

Program Grants

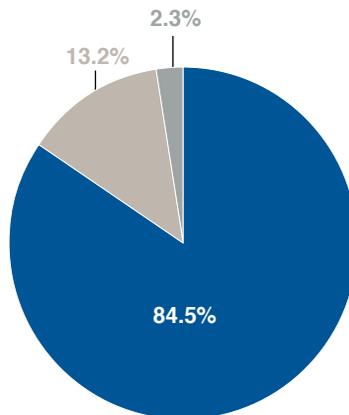
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation	\$ 160,000
North Carolina Dropout Prevention Grant	144,816
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc.	26,411
Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel	25,000
BB&T Charitable Foundation	15,000
Duke Energy Foundation	12,500

Subtotal **\$ 383,727**

Program Contracts **\$ 178,991**

Grand Total **\$ 777,448**

2011–2012 TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS



84.5%—State Funding \$3,597,808
13.2%—Grant/Contractual Funding \$562,718
2.3%—Foundation Funding \$97,678

TOTAL: \$4,258,204

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

NCCAT provides interdisciplinary, topic-specific, residential seminars for pre–K through 12th-grade teachers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects, communication, leadership, and the arts and humanities. NCCAT serves public school educators from all 100 counties, including all 115 school systems, charter schools, and 2 federal school systems. According to external evaluations, the NCCAT Beginning Teachers Program has demonstrated solid success in supporting beginning teachers, increasing their effectiveness, and retaining them in the profession. NCCAT also offers site-based programming to help educators align curriculum with the Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards.

Beginning Teacher Programming

Connect to Your Future: Celebrating Success in the Classroom (four seminars) • Cullowhee and Ocracoke

NCCAT Connections—A comprehensive yearlong induction program designed for first-year teachers in Bertie, Edgecombe, Halifax,* Hertford, Rockingham,* and Western NC counties (Clay,* McDowell,* and Swain.*) The ten-session program is conducted in the teacher’s home school district, allowing peer-to-peer learning with colleagues facing similar challenges, and exploring topics such as classroom management, brain-based research, differentiated instruction, total quality tools, diverse student populations, and assessment. Opportunities to observe a master teacher’s classroom, discussion of best practices in the classroom, mentoring and classroom observation by the NCCAT facilitators, and a weekend seminar at NCCAT designed to help beginning teachers meet the needs of children in poverty round out the program.

*Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation supported *NCCAT Connections* in these counties

Arts, Humanities, Cultural Diversity, and Leadership Seminars

Best Practices for Motivating African American Students • Cullowhee

Closing the Achievement Gap: The United States and Asia • Cullowhee

Gathering of Holocaust Educators • Cullowhee

Island People, Island Culture • Ocracoke

Dropout Solutions: Review and Implementation of Best Practices from the Field (three seminars)
• Cullowhee and Greensboro

Leadership, Creativity, and Change: Positive Paths for North Carolina Teachers • Cullowhee

Move It! The Physically Active Academic Classroom (two seminars) • Cullowhee and Ocracoke

On the Edge of Forever: Teaching Beyond the Boundaries • Ocracoke

One Amazing Year • Cullowhee

Power of Words • Cullowhee

Strategies for Motivating African American Students • Cullowhee

Teaching the Holocaust: Resources and Reflections • Washington, DC

Teaching Writing Through Children’s Literature • Cullowhee

Writing from Sound to Sea: Awakening Creativity by the Shore • Ocracoke

Legacy Seminars

Salty Dogs and the Lore of the Sea • Ocracoke

US Coast Guard: Guardians of the Sea • Ocracoke

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Seminars

Four National Board Support Seminars* were held in Cullowhee and Ocracoke for teachers who are candidates for national certification.

*These seminars were supported by the Golden LEAF Foundation

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Seminars

Catching Up with Your Students: Navigating Technology for 21st Century Classrooms (two seminars)
• Cullowhee

Counting Words and Reading Numbers: An Integrated Approach to Language Arts and Mathematics Instruction • Cullowhee

CSI Regathering • Cullowhee and Knoxville, Tennessee

Dollars and Sense: Building Financial Literacy • Cullowhee

Endangered Species: Saving the Loggerhead and Piping Plover • Ocracoke

Everyone Needs a Little Mystery: CSI in Your Classroom • Cullowhee

I Can Change the World: Citizen Science in the Classroom • Cullowhee

Multimedia in the Classroom: Empowering Student Learning • Cullowhee

Outdoor Classroom: Integrating Natural Experiences with the Curriculum • Cullowhee

Rivers of Sand: Exploring the Natural History of the Outer Banks • Ocracoke

Sea, Sand, and Human Hands: The Changing Face of the Outer Banks • Ocracoke

Stress, Health, and Learning (two seminars) • Cullowhee

Programs for Educational Groups and Strategic Partnerships

Building an Awareness of the Needs of Children in Poverty: Johnston County • Cullowhee

Common Core Principles (two sessions) • Bertie County

Common Core Principles: Cherokee Elementary (two sessions) • Cullowhee

Common Core Principles: Mountain View Intermediate • Macon County

Community in Schools North Carolina: Built to Lead, Built to Last • Cullowhee

Community in Schools North Carolina: The Last Dropout • Cullowhee

Kenan Fellows Summer Institute • Cullowhee

Sandhills Regional Education Consortium: Sandhills Leadership Academy Summer Institute • Cullowhee

Sandhills Regional Education Consortium: Sandhills Leadership Academy Capstone Intensive • Cullowhee

UNC General Administration North Carolina New Teacher Support Program: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Pitt County Schools • Mecklenburg and Pitt Counties

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We are honored to be associated with these individuals, companies, institutions, and agencies whose support helps to enhance NCCAT programming. During 2011–2012, the following organizations provided world-class scholars and presenters for professional development seminars and served as partners with NCCAT in advancing the art and profession of teaching in North Carolina. These partners are located in North Carolina unless otherwise indicated.

Asheville Playback Theater
AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
BB&T Charitable Foundation
Bessemer City Middle School
Blue Ridge Parkway
Cape Hatteras Lighthouse
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Cape Lookout National Seashore
Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence SouthEast
Champions for Peace Leadership and Mastermind Institute
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
 Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate
Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site and Museum
City Lights Bookstore
Coast Guard Station Hatteras Inlet
Communities in Schools North Carolina
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc., New York, New York
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center
Crystal Coast Eco-Tours
Dream Builders Communications Inc.
Duke Energy Foundation
Durham Technical Community College
East Carolina University
East Millbrook Magnet Middle School
Fairview Elementary School
Forest Hills Global Elementary School
Frank and Shelly Weiner Holocaust Education Teacher Training Endowment of NCCAT
Freedom Writers Foundation, Long Beach, California
Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia
Golden LEAF Foundation
GlaxoSmithKline Community Partnerships
Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
 Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center
Green County High School, Greensboro, Georgia
Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel (Corporate Giving)
Hatteras Community Center
David Holt, High Windy Productions Inc.
Hyde County Sheriff's Department
Imani Enterprises, Conyers, Georgia
Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Friends of Greater Washington, Washington, DC
Knoxville Police Department, Knoxville, Tennessee
LEARN NC
McIntyre Photography Inc.
Meredith College
Robert and Cama Merritt (Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program)
Nantahala Outdoor Center
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Arlington, Virginia
National Park Service
Ninth Grade Academy, Stockbridge, Georgia
North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association Charitable Foundation
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina Coastal Federation
North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
North Carolina Council on the Holocaust

North Carolina Department of Administration
 North Carolina Justice for Sterilization Victims Foundation
 North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 Center for the Prevention of School Violence
 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
 North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention
 North Carolina Department of Transportation: Ferry Division
 North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
 North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics
 North Carolina Sea Grant
 North Carolina State Board of Education
 North Carolina State University
 Kenan Fellows Program for Curriculum and Leadership Development
 William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation
 North Carolina Virtual Public School
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Northwood High School
 Ocracoke Assembly of God Church
 Ocracoke British Cemetery
 Ocracoke Civic and Business Association
 Ocracoke Lighthouse
 Ocracoke Preservation Society Museum
 Ocracoke School
 Ocracoke Seafood Company
 Ocracoke United Methodist Church
 Ocracoke Working Watermen's Exhibit
 Operation H.O.P.E., Atlanta, Georgia
 Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., New York, New York
 Perry Learning Center, College Park, Georgia
 Portsmouth Island ATV Excursions
 Portsmouth Island Boat Tours
 Portsmouth Island National Seashore
 Purpose Publishing
 Sandhills Regional Education Consortium
 Alfred and Anita Schnog
 Schwartz & Shaw PLLC
 Shelby High School
 Southern High School
 Springer's Point Preserve
 State Employees' Credit Union
 Teacher's Workshop, Milledgeville, Georgia
 The Schooner *Windfall II*
 UNC General Administration
 Uncharted Territories
 United States Coast Guard
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Morehead Planetarium and Science Center
 DESTINY Traveling Science Learning Program
 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 University of North Carolina Wilmington
 North Carolina Teaching Asia Network
 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tennessee
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Forensic Anthropology Center
 VerbalEYZE Writers Cooperative, Atlanta, Georgia
 Western Carolina Pulmonary and Sleep Consultants
 Western Carolina University
 Base Camp Cullowhee
 Hunter Library, Special Collections
 Mountain Heritage Center
 Spring Literary Festival
 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

Increasing teacher effectiveness is fundamental to improving public education in North Carolina.

That is NCCAT's core function.

I attended NCCAT in June along with the many other Kenan Fellows. While lots of experiences were built into our stay, the instructional focus was on educational technology.

It. Was. Amazing.

I am passionate about learning educational technology and integrating it into my classroom. Therefore, I was thrilled to be immersed into such a rich technology training environment over several days. It was the most powerfully intensive technology training I've ever experienced.

—*Erica Speaks, English Language Arts, Durant Road Middle School, Raleigh*

NCCAT has provided me with the most in-depth and informative professional development seminar that I have ever attended. It not only educated me as a teacher, but also inspired me to go above and beyond to create quality learning experiences for all my students.

—*Miranda Saul, Kindergarten, Murrayville Elementary School, Wilmington*

Technology skills are the skills my students need for the future. I am very committed to integrating what I learned at NCCAT into my daily instruction. I believe being able to connect with my students' passion for technology will result in higher engagement with their lessons, which will result in increased student success.

—*Lydia Kirkman, Mathematics, Northwest Guilford Middle School, Greensboro*

NCCAT reminds teachers why they became a teacher—for the love of learning and helping others find success. NCCAT's gift to teachers has a direct impact on classrooms, which means students. I encourage all my teachers to attend NCCAT.

—*Stephen Gay, Principal, American Renaissance Middle School, Statesville*

It's not even possible to describe how amazing this NCCAT experience was. All I can say is that I have never felt more positive or clear-headed about how to do my job.

—*Elizabeth Beck Wiggs, English Language Arts, Lee Early College, Sanford*

