2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

A year of new initiatives, new opportunities, and increased awareness



North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching



"NCCAT provides professional development that meets the needs of today's teachers. We are continuously evaluating our seminars to stay on the cutting edge."

- **Dr. Mary McDuffie**. Executive Director

t is our great pleasure to report a year of new initiatives, new opportunities, and increased awareness of NCCAT as a unique and effective organization devoted to supporting high quality instruction in the classroom and retaining excellent teachers in North Carolina's schools. We are extremely grateful for the time, talents, and energies contributed by NCCAT's Board of Trustees, the Foundation Board of Directors, and our dedicated staff members who made this year a resounding success.

Our state's future is mirrored in our classrooms. Each day more than 90,000 teachers are leading these classrooms and shaping the world to come. NCCAT proudly supports them through professional development that nurtures both their teaching expertise and their souls, encouraging them to stay in this vital profession.

If you were with us in 2005–2006, we thank you for your interest and support. If you are new to NCCAT, we hope you enjoy this review of an exciting year.



Kenneth W. Wells. Chairman, Board of Trustees



Richard A. Schwartz. President, Development Foundation



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Executive Director





Top: NCCAT's campus in Cullowhee **Bottom:** Future eastern campus on Ocracoke Island will open in 2007



Keeping Experienced Teachers in the Profession

uring the year more than ninety interdisciplinary seminars were designed and conducted for almost 6,000 teachers from school systems throughout the state. These seminars, the heart of the NCCAT experience, reacquainted the participants with the excitement of learning that sparked them to become teachers in the first place. Most of the teachers in these seminars were at the midpoint of their careers, with between eight and fifteen years of experience in the classroom, and ready to renew, recharge, and rediscover their passion for teaching. At NCCAT they met colleagues from different backgrounds, disciplines, and grade levels and shared common experiences, insights, and new learning to take back to their classrooms. Surveys show that the teachers returned to their schools after these experiences with increased dedication to their profession.

NCCAT seminars give participants working knowledge and practical experience while providing them with fresh ideas for teaching. In 2005–2006, seminar topics ranged from the physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities to communication, health, and the arts. Teachers at NCCAT met and learned from historians, authors, scientists, artists, and other expert teachers in seminars directly tied to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, the state's established curriculum for public schools. They explored fields ranging from the Harlem Renaissance, to crime-scene investigation, to environmental sustainability, to the effects of poverty on children. Most of the seminars were held in Cullowhee; some were held along the North Carolina coast or in the piedmont. Special topic seminars took teachers to other states as they

retraced the history of the Civil Rights Movement, traversed the trail of Lewis and Clark, and went behind the scenes of Broadway stages.

Seminars that focused on cultural understanding and appreciation gave participants methods for using these themes to deepen their classroom curriculums. They delved into Cherokee culture, examined issues facing young African American males, gained insights into the beliefs and contributions of Islam, and learned how to better serve the Latino population in our state.

The annual "Leadership, Creativity, and Change" seminar brought Teachers of the Year from around the state together to share their own leadership styles, best practices, and positive responses to institutional change in their schools. Joining in a dialogue with business and education leaders, they considered educational leadership through the discussion and analysis of leadership principles. Regardless of the topic or location, all of NCCAT's seminars nourish the spirit in programs that are based on solid adult learning theory.

Below: Teachers search for clues at the scene of a simulated plane crash. This was one of several inquiry-based learning activities held during the seminar "Crime Scene Investigator: The New Sherlock Holmes."





Getting New Teachers Off to a Good Start

eginning teachers bring energy and a fresh outlook to their schools. But, all too often, many of the best and brightest don't survive the challenges of the classroom. NCCAT's "Connections," a program held monthly during the school year, focused on instructional methodology and provided support to 198 novice teachers in districts where attrition is particularly high. The program, which received major funding support from the Wachovia Foundation Teachers and Teaching Initiative of Winston-Salem and from individual school districts, was held in Burke, Duplin, Edgecombe, Hoke, Johnston, Martin, and Montgomery counties.

2005–2006 also marked the first year of a new NCCAT program for beginning teachers called "Connect to Your Future: Celebrating Success in the Classroom." This seminar for initially licensed teachers in the second and third years of their careers provided them with practical tools to make their classroom experience better and more productive. It provided in-depth instruction in topics such as classroom management, differentiated instruction, and understanding and connecting with students.









"Teachers become National Board Certified by passing a series of rigorous assessments. The process not only helps good teachers become better, but also encourages them to stay in the profession." -Alliance for Excellent Education, Washington, DC

Supporting National Board Candidates

CCAT support seminars provide teachers with a focused environment to create the performance-based assessment portfolios required for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. During five days at NCCAT, candidates



for this widely recognized measure of teaching excellence work on their portfolios, are guided and encouraged by facilitatorteachers who have successfully achieved certification, and collaborate with other teachers who also are pursuing this goal.



National certification, a unique opportunity for career growth, requires an intense examination and documentation of teaching practices. In addition to enhancing their own skills and abilities, board-certified teachers inspire others with their example of what dedicated teachers can accomplish. North Carolina leads the nation in the number of public school teachers who have achieved national certification.

NCCAT provided twenty-one national board support seminars for 484 candidates during the year. These seminars received financial support from the Golden LEAF Foundation, Progress Energy Foundation, and State Farm Insurance Company.



Creating Ideal Environments for Growth and Learning

roviding a stimulating environment for learning and professional renewal is an essential part of the NCCAT experience. In 2005–2006, improvements to the Cullowhee campus included a major expansion of technological



capabilities. A vastly enhanced high-tech infrastructure has strategically positioned us for the future. Wireless Internet access is now available for teachers, and computer hardware and software upgrades are helping staff members keep pace with an increasingly technological world.



Refurbishments to the fifteenyear-old buildings and grounds in Cullowhee have made our facilities inviting, appealing, safe, and secure. Roof replacements, updates to rock walls, new furnishings, and landscaping completed in 2005–2006 are

maintaining a comfortable environment for learning and reflection. The Cullowhee campus consists of more than thirty-five acres. Surrounded by wooded areas, gardens, and a pond, the facilities feature two residences with private rooms for up to fifty visiting teachers and a main conference facility with meeting rooms, dining room, technology lab, fitness room, and library and media resources.



"The new vision for this campus captures the story of dedicated men and women who believe in education and the hope that it offers."

—Richard Eugene Rogers, Retired NC Representative

Building an Eastern Campus

nthusiastic planning and the bidding process gave way to the sounds of hammers and drills as construction on the Ocracoke campus moved into full swing. The grand opening of the new facilities in the former US Coast Guard Station on Ocracoke Island will be celebrated in the spring of 2007. We are mindful of the major commitment and focus that this expansion will require, and we are prepared. New staff members are joining our team to help meet the growing need and capacity for services. We have planned new seminars for Ocracoke that are scheduled this fall in alternate facilities on the island. The seminars will focus heavily on environmental studies, history, culture, and teacher leadership.







Celebrating Twenty Years

heritage and history in 2005–2006, our 20th anniversary year. More than 200 friends and supporters, including state government and education leaders and NCCAT alumni, attended our Open House on October 2. In his keynote address, former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt Jr., said that our



James B. Hunt, Jr., former NC governor, and Judge Lacy Thornburg, former NC attorney general, at NCCAT anniversary reception.

public school teachers are the "absolute key" to the state's future. After Gov. Hunt spoke, we dedicated a conference room in our main facility to the late Dr. R. Bruce McPherson, NCCAT's founding director. Later that day, a reception for special guests featured a release of Monarch butterflies to demonstrate a special learning adventure that teachers often share with students.

Increased awareness for our mission put NCCAT seminars—and teachers' appreciation for them—in the spotlight. Twice featured this year on UNC-TV's "North Carolina Now" program, NCCAT also produced a DVD, "We All Need Good Teachers," that won four national awards. We increased our public awareness and marketing activities, placing major emphasis on launching a new web site that responds to the increasing need for sophisticated information systems. Spreading the word about NCCAT's services in professional education venues, staff and faculty members carried the NCCAT message to state and national meetings and conferences.



"When business and education join together to help strengthen our schools through programs like this, everyone achieves more."

— Deanna Lee, Senior Vice President, Wachovia Foundation

Increasing Private Support

rivate gifts and grants from individuals, businesses, and foundations supplemented the \$6.3 million annual state budget, making it possible to enrich NCCAT programming. The Development Foundation of NCCAT Inc. reported a total of \$1,051,820 in grants and contributions in 2005–2006. These funds often give the support that provides the margin of excellence for our seminars, allowing NCCAT to explore and develop new programs. The Annual Fund collected \$65,900, mostly in gifts from teachers who have attended NCCAT seminars. The Honored Educators Scholarship endowments reached \$506,692. Sixteen of the twenty-eight scholarships have attained the endowment level of \$25,000. In addition, the Foundation amassed a total of \$598,166 through grants, especially supporting programs for beginning teachers and teachers seeking national board certification.

The first major fundraising event in our history, the NCCAT Golden Apple Gala, drew more than 300 friends, guests, and sponsors to the Capital City Club in Raleigh for silent and live auctions that raised more than \$60,000 to expand and enhance programming for teachers.





Looking Ahead

ou have seen the faces of teachers at NCCAT on the pages of this annual report. Their expressions reflect what we believe are the vital ingredients of the best professional development experiences—zest for learning, professional collegiality, academic excellence, intellectual depth, caring and compassion, and renewed vitality. In the coming year, we will continue to focus on ensuring that all NCCAT activities foster and support these qualities.

We look forward to 2006–2007 to be a year of growth and new opportunities as the need and demand for NCCAT's services continue to increase. Our mission—to advance teaching as an art and profession—is more essential now than ever before.

Below: Participants in the renewal seminar "Perspectives in Time: A Photographic Journey" gather to pose for their group photo.



Summary of Activities July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006

Beginning Teachers Seminars

Connect to Your Future: Celebrating Success in the Classroom (for initially licensed teachers in their second and third years)

Connections—For a group of beginning teachers in Burke, Duplin, Edgecombe, Hoke, Johnston, Martin, and Montgomery Counties held in their school districts.

Cultural Diversity, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Cultural Arts Seminars

Achieving Against the Odds

Affirming Diversity Through Art: Not for Art Teachers Only

Back of Beyond: Portals to Our Mountain Past

Best Practices for Motivating African American Students

Biltmore House: Its People and Impact

Books Bound to Be Read

Caught Up in the Current: Traveling with Lewis and Clark Celebrating Diversity Through Children's Literature Cherokee Artistry: Drawing on Nature's Bounty

Cherokee Autumn: Tradition and Change I Dream a World: Black Women in America

Let Freedom Ride! Traveling the Road to Civil Rights in America

Front Porch Swings and Onion Rings Gathering of Diversity Educators Gathering of Holocaust Educators

Habitat for Humanity: Building and Sharing

Harlem Renaissance Heart of Teaching

I Love This Game! America's Passion for Sports If Quilts Could Speak: Storytelling with a Needle In Search of Self: A Journey of Introspection

Left Behind: Poverty in America

Made by Hand: Craft Traditions of North Carolina

Motown Music: A Rhythm for the Generations (two sessions) Mountain Ghosts and Other Curious Tales of Appalachia

Music, Media, and Violence Nature's Watercolors

On Broadway!

People, Places, and Plots: Writing with a Purpose

New Neighbors: Latinos in North Carolina Smoky Mountain Winter Traditions Storytelling for Your Life and Classroom

Teaching Every Child: Inclusive Classrooms (two sessions) Teaching the Holocaust: Resources and Reflections

Teaching the Holocaust. Hesources and Heliection

The Write Start: Reading for Success

Turners and Burners: Folk Potters of North Carolina

Through Cherokee Eyes

Visual Journal: Where the Image Meets the Word

Writing Poetry: Rhythms of the Heart Young. Black, and Male in America

Understanding Islam



Independent Study and Research

Teacher Scholar in Residence Program

(for teachers with projects of outstanding intellectual or artistic promise)

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Seminars

Twenty-one support seminars for candidates for national certification

Physical, Biological, and Environmental Sciences Seminars

Addiction in America

An Apple for the Teacher

Appalachian Spring Wildflowers

Birds of the Blue Ridge

Chattooga River: Reality and Myth

Crime Scene Investigator: The New Sherlock Holmes Emotional Intelligence and Wellness in the Classroom

Environmental Tipping Points: A New Direction for Environmental Education

Graveyard of the Atlantic

Growing Healthy

Holistic Health

Hurricanes: In the Eye of the Storm Natural Rhythms of the River

Perspectives in Time: A Photographic Journey Salty Dogs and the Lore of the Sea (two sessions)

Space Camp: Your Place in Space

Stargazing: Majesty and Mystery of the Night Sky

The Mountain

Waterfalls: The Beauty and Power of Flowing Water

You Are What You Eat: Food, Culture, and Behavior (two sessions)

Programs for Educational Groups

Junior and Senior Teaching Fellows

Olympic High School Coalition of Essential Schools

Special Leadership Seminar (for Teachers of the Year)

Leadership, Creativity, and Change

Weekend Seminars for Alumni

"Step Right Up: The Great American Circus," Pinehurst

"The Healing Power of Music, Song, and Poetry," Atlantic Beach

"The Birth of Rock 'n' Roll," Cullowhee



Visiting Presenters and Partners

(Located in North Carolina, unless otherwise indicated)

uring 2005–2006, the following organizations provided guest presenters for NCCAT seminars or served as partners with NCCAT to advance teaching in North Carolina. We are grateful for their support and involvement.

Schools, Colleges, and Universities

- Appalachian State University
- Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
- East Carolina University
- East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee
- Haywood Community College
- Montana State University, Billings, Montana
- North Carolina State University
- Southwestern Community College
- Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas
- University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida
- University of North Carolina at Asheville
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia
- Western Carolina University
- Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina

Business, Education, and Government

- Atlantic Fleet Naval Submarine Force, Norfolk, Virginia
- Best Sewing and Vacuum Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee
- Center for Interdisciplinary Remotely-Piloted Aircraft Studies, Marina, California
- City Lights Bookstore
- Cherokee Preservation Foundation
- Communities in Schools North Carolina
- Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc., New York, New York
- Eaglesnest Leadership Group
- Franklin Police Department
- Golden LEAF Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity
- High Country Publishers
- INTEL Corporation
- Jackson County Migrant Health Program
- Jackson County Sheriff's Department
- LEARN North Carolina
- LimiTV Inc.
- Marine Advanced Technology Education Center, Monterey, California
- Midway Center, Milledgeville, Georgia
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Southfield, Michigan
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service

- North Carolina Center for the Prevention of School Violence
- North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Marine Fisheries
- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- North Carolina Department of Transportation: Ferry Division
- North Carolina Division of Emergency Management
- North Carolina ECHO
- North Carolina Model Teacher Education Consortium
- North Carolina Partnership for Excellence
- North Carolina Sea Grant
- North Carolina State Board of Education
- North Carolina State Library
- North Carolina Teacher Academy
- Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute
- Progress Energy Foundation
- Public School Forum of North Carolina
- State Farm Insurance Companies
- United States Coast Guard
- United States Forest Service
- University of North Carolina Television
- University of North Carolina General Administration
- University of North Carolina Traveling Science Laboratory
- Wachovia Corporation

Museums, Libraries, and Parks

- Asheville Art Museum
- Asheville Botanical Gardens
- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, Alabama
- Cape Lookout National Seashore
- Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum
- Cradle of Forestry
- Folk Art Center
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
- Junaluska Memorial and Museum
- Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls, Montana
- Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, Newport News, Virginia
- Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama
- Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, Atlanta, Georgia
- Morehead Planetarium and Science Center
- Museum of the Cherokee Indian
- National Park Service
- National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, Selma, Alabama
- North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences
- North Carolina Pottery Center
- Oconaluftee Indian Village

- Portsmouth Island National Seashore
- Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery, Alabama
- C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, Montana
- Schiele Museum of Natural History and Planetarium
- Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Alabama
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC
- United States Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama
- Western Carolina University, Hunter Library Special Collections
- Western Carolina University, Mountain Heritage Center
- Western Carolina University, Fine and Performing Arts Center

Cultural Diversity and Awareness

- Ani-Kuwih Mulberry Dancers
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Gospel Jubilators
- Mountain Faith Singers
- North Carolina Council on the Holocaust
- Partnership for Minority Advancement in the Biomolecular Sciences
- Que Pasa Latino Communications Inc.
- Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources
- Warrior Dancers
- Western North Carolina Vecinos Inc.

Churches and Religious Organizations

- Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, DC
- Basilica of Saint Lawrence
- Dexter Avenue King's Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama
- Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, Peace Village
- Rabbi Israel Fund
- Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama
- Trinity Center, Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

Arts and Entertainment

- Ambassador Theater, New York, New York
- Asheville Tourists Baseball Club
- B&J Fabrics, New York, New York
- Ben Owen Pottery
- Bill Grimsley Magic Productions
- Caledonia Pottery
- Carolina Chocolate Drops
- Dark Cove Pottery and Farm
- Elizabeth Ellison Watercolors
- Etiquette Matters
- Frogtown Four
- Hatteras Island Tours
- High Windy Productions Inc.
- Jugtown Pottery
- Laughing Eye Studio
- LIFT Culture House

- Lincoln Center Theater, New York, New York
- Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, New York, New York
- Luck's Ware
- Lulu's on Main
- McIntyre Photography Inc.
- Mud Dabbers Pottery and Crafts Inc.
- Oaks Gallery
- Original Owens Pottery
- Phil and Gaye Johnson
- Portsmouth Island Boat Tours
- Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual Inc.
- Red Moon Herbs
- Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Madison, Wisconsin
- Rodney Gordon Ltd., New York, New York
- SKH Productions
- Southern Highlands Craft Guild
- Spring Street String Band
- St. James Theater, New York, New York
- Sure Fire Entertainment
- Ten Thousand Villages
- The Schooner Windfall
- Thrice Told Storytellers
- Touring Theater Ensemble of North Carolina
- Tricorne Inc., New York, New York
- William Ivey Long Inc., New York, New York

Health and Wellness

- InnerVision
- MindSpring Consulting Inc.
- Mission Children's Clinic
- Rex Hospital
- Southeast Sports Medicine and Fitness Center
- The Health Adventure

Historic and Environmental Preservation

- Appalachian Sustainable Agricultural Project
- Balsam Mountain Preserve
- Biltmore Estate
- Chattooga Conservancy, Clayton, Georgia
- Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment, Washington, DC
- Great Smoky Mountains Railroad
- HandMade in America
- Hickory Nut Gap Farm
- High Hampton Inn
- Missouri River Outfitters, Fort Benton, Montana
- Mount LeConte Lodge
- Nantahala Outdoor Center
- Nature Conservancy
- Pomme de Terre Farm
- Teaching American History Project
- Western North Carolina Alliance

Financials 2005–2006 State Budget

Personnel \$2,983,964

• Wages, salaries, and paid benefits for 80 full-time and hourly employees

Substitute Teacher and Visiting Presenter Pay

\$337.345

 Substitute teachers to work in the place of teachers attending seminars, visiting presenters to serve as guest faculty

Current Services \$1,119,642

- \$254,575—Travel reimbursement for teachers and staff members
- \$837,287—Other services, including maintenance contracts and services, utilities, telephone, building and equipment repairs, printing, and contracted food services
- \$27,780 Offsite seminar facilities costs

Supplies \$364,998

 Program and office supplies, books, videotapes, food products, cleaning materials and maintenance materials for buildings and grounds

Equipment And Technology

\$1,446,326

• Furnishings, computers, network and infrastructure upgrades, and office equipment

Fixed Charges \$74,263

• Insurance, rental agreements, professional publications and memberships

TOTAL: \$6,326,538

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HOW THE BUDGET WAS SPENT

64.8% — Seminars and Programs

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

26.4% - Support Services

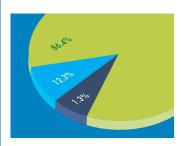
Dining services, building and grounds maintenance, repairs, minor improvements, cleaning, utilities and telephone, equipment and furnishings and contracted services

7.3% — Administration

Budget management, planning, reporting, analysis, personnel management, policy analysis and direction, and data processing

1.4% - Development

Administrative costs and expenses of the Development Foundation



OPERATING FUNDS

86.4% — State Funding \$6,326,538 12.3% — Grant/Contractual Funding \$901,850 1.3% — Foundation Funding \$91,964

TOTAL: \$7,320,352

Financials 2005–2006 Development Foundation

Income

Honored Educators Scholarship Endowments Interest and Investment Income Annual Fund and NCCAT Golden Apple Gala Holocaust Endowment Gifts in Kind	\$74,081 \$53,947 \$131,601 \$22,641 \$105,740
NCCAT Memorabilia Program Endowments	\$56,494 \$9.150
Program Grants	ψ3,130
Wachovia Foundation—Teachers and Teaching Initiative	\$250,000
(NCCAT Connections Program)	
Progress Energy	\$25,000
(National Board Certification Seminars)	
 Coalition of Essential Schools—Olympic High School 	\$130,000
(planning and support for high school conversion team)	
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc.	\$20,000
(Holocaust Education)	4
Golden LEAF Foundation	\$165,666
(National Board Certification Seminars)	
State Farm Insurance	\$7,500
(National Board Certification Seminars)	

TOTAL: \$1,051,820

Honored Educators Scholarships

n 2005–2006, former students, friends, families, and institutions from all over North Carolina showed their appreciation for great teachers through their contributions to these scholarships. To make a donation or to start a new scholarship fund, call the Development Foundation at 800-922-0482.

Scholarship/Designation

(Boldface indicates funds have reached the \$25,000 level.)

Mary Jo Allen / Edgecombe County Teacher of the Year Mary Jo Allen / Hertford County Robert E. and Hattie H. Bridges / Wake County Robert E. Bridges / Cary Academy William Byrum / Perquimans County Anne Marie Collins / Alamance County Dare County Schools / Dare County Teacher of the Year Boyce T. Deitz / Swain County Boyce T. Deitz / Jackson County Devonwood Foundation / Durham Academy Mary Jane Coward Dillard / Jackson County Duplin County / Duplin County Teacher of the Year Jerome D. Franson / Statewide Luz M. Frye / Foreign Language Teachers Karen Gerringer / Principal Fellows Interns Guilford County Schools / Guilford County Teacher of the Year Elsie Brame Hunt and Norma Henderson Leonard / Wilson County Phillip J. Kirk Jr. / Rowan-Salisbury Schools Susan S. McHugh / Polk County Mabel Roberson McIntyre / Nash and Wilson Counties A. Craig Phillips / Statewide Jean P. Powell / Clinton City and Sampson County A.M. Primm / Alamance County Eugene and Jean Rogers / Martin County 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



"Great teachers care about their students and are passionate about learning and about making learning fun. This passion comes from the heart — it's a calling."

-Wendy Miller, North Carolina Teacher of the Year 2005–2006 and NCCAT alumna



ABOUT THE SCULPTURE: "Expanding Horizons," a bronze sculpture on the NCCAT campus in Cullowhee, celebrates a special teaching moment. The life-sized work, created by NCCAT alumnus William Eleazer and his art students at Tuscola High School in Waynesville, depicts a teacher showing the earth, moon, and sun to two young children in a lesson about the solar system. Funds to support the project, which was under construction for two years, came largely from local contributors, including the Adelaide Worth Daniels Foundation, the Cherokee Historical Association, the Jackson County Arts Council, and numerous individuals.