

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, August 28, 2007

Contact: Amy H. Montgomery, 255-5545



DEF SUMMER SUPPORT READIES TEACHERS



Pictured Above: Sara Neal, Manteo High School AVID Teacher trains Manteo High School Art Teacher Robin York how to teach her students to take “C Notes” – a strategy Neal learned at the AVID Summer Institute, a teacher training funded in part by the Dare Education Foundation.

Twenty Dare County Schools teachers from MHS, MMS, FFHS, FFMS, and CHSS attended the weeklong AVID Summer Institute in Atlanta Georgia this summer. The teacher training was funded in part by the Dare Education Foundation as part of their Passport to Higher Education initiative designed to help close the achievement gap for would-be first generation college students, minorities and students with limited means students.

The teachers who attended the summer training returned with new teaching tools that they shared with all middle and high school staff from the First Flight and Manteo campuses at a day-long workshop on August 22.

“DEF enjoys the partnership we have with Dare County Schools to help put AVID in place district-wide. The AVID students are benefiting, and the teacher workshop held on August 22 is a good example of how the district is getting the most bang for the buck for all students. All teachers, not just the AVID teachers, are learning new strategies that are proven to help students reach their full academic potential,” said Amy Montgomery, DEF’s Executive Director.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a research-based proven program that has been in existence for 25 years. Nearly 100 total students will be enrolled in AVID at MMS, MHS, FFMS and CHMS this school year. Next fall, the program roll-out will be complete with an expansion to FFHS and CHHS. Nationally, 95% of AVID graduates go on to college and 75% earn a four-year degree – nearly three times the rate of non-AVID students. Notably, these are students, who without AVID, would have never considered going to college.



Pictured Above: Sharon Crane, FFMS AVID Teacher, partnered with FFHS Math Teacher Susan Blackwell, to offer a teacher training on the “Socratic Seminar” at the day-long teacher

training on August 22. Both learned more about the benefits of this teaching strategy at the Model Schools Conference in Washington, DC this summer – another teacher training funded in part by the Dare Education Foundation.

Over 50 teachers, in teams from every school in the district, attended the Model Schools Conference in Washington, DC this summer – a teacher training also funded in part by the Dare Education Foundation. The teachers who attended the Model Schools Conference also shared their new teaching tools with all middle and high school staff from the First Flight and Manteo campuses at a day-long workshop on August 22.

“We know that Dare County Schools are good and if we are not careful that could keep us from reaching the next level of being great”, said Susan Blackwell, FFHS Math Teacher, to the teachers who attended her session on the “Socratic Seminar” on August 22. “I learned so much from the model schools who were presenting at the Model Schools Conference in DC this summer. Using strategies like the “Socratic Seminar” is one simple way we can make a big difference in student success and become a model school. Next year, it can be Dare County Schools featured at the Model Schools Conference.”

New for 2007-2008, DEF is launching a 21st Century Skills Initiative. The goal of the 21st Century Skills Initiative is to help our local schools implement best practices to better prepare students to meet the global, technological, and socio-economic demands of the 21st Century.

Teacher training is a big part of DEF’s 21st Century Skills Initiative. Helping to send teams to the Model Schools Conference this summer is one way DEF is helping teachers modify their strategies to increase 21st Century Skills for all students.

“Our community is so fortunate to have such beautiful new and renovated schools. If you watch closely, you’ll see that what’s happening on the inside is just as amazing. Our schools are striving for excellence for all students and DEF is proud to be a partner helping along the academic improvements on the inside”, said Amy Montgomery.

The Dare Education Foundation puts "Schools First". DEF is an IRS-qualified non-profit organization that raises funds to help every student and every teacher in every public school in Dare County. DEF is funded by private donations large and small, grants, sponsorships, and special events. Funds are used to advance teacher training, create access to new educational opportunities for students, and provide support for innovative programs in our schools. DEF's efforts in putting "Schools First" enrich education for all our students and encourage community involvement in education, which we believe provide the foundation for a strong and vibrant quality of life in Dare County.

For more information about the Dare Education Foundation call 255-5545 or visit us on-line at www.dareeducationfoundation.org.