

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue polo shirt with white stripes on the sleeves and a black backpack, is smiling broadly. He is positioned on the right side of the image, looking towards the camera. The background is white with faint, large, light blue text that reads "LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS INSPIRED." and "INSPIRED." repeated.

LEE COUNTY
SCHOOLS
INSPIRED.

Lee County Schools

106 Gordon Street
PO Box 1010

Sanford, NC 27330

919-774-6226

Fax 919-776-0443

<http://lee.schoolfusion.us>

lee county schools

our future starts here



OUR MISSION

Lee County Schools will teach each student the social and academic skills needed to become a responsible and productive citizen.

OUR VISION

Lee County Schools, in partnership with the community, will provide challenging learning experiences for students in a safe and supportive environment. We are committed to academic excellence, social responsibility, and life-long learning. Our success will be demonstrated by the achievement of our students and their positive participation in society.

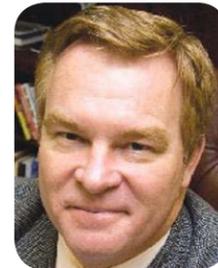
DEAR NEWCOMERS TO LEE COUNTY:

This school year, our objective is to build on a strong record of success. We recently adopted specific, measurable goals that will raise the bar for our students, teachers and administrators.

Across all school levels, we are committed to infusing more technology in the classrooms so that our students can compete in the 21st century. We are focused on providing innovative choices for educational settings best suited to the needs of students and parents. Our schools enjoy unprecedented community support and we are determined to communicate our goals effectively so that support will continue.

At the elementary level, we were able to place Smartboards and laptops in every classroom. Programs like AVID and STEM will boost academic achievement skills for our middle school students. Our high school students are offered college level distance learning and advanced placement opportunities. Tutorial activities and other support services are available for all students.

These programs are just a few examples of the strides we are making which have transformed our schools into a rigorous, top tier education system. We've set high goals, provided state-of-the-art



learning facilities and technology, and gathered the support of community leaders in both the public and private sectors. We are excited about the possibilities for your child and invite you to visit our schools. We also encourage you to get involved as a volunteer.

Only with the support of everyone will we succeed in our mission to “teach each student the social and academic skills needed to become a responsible and productive citizen.”

— **Superintendent Jeff Moss**





DID YOU KNOW?

This year, more than 80% of Lee County's seniors graduated within four years of entering ninth grade in 2007-08. For Lee County Schools, this is a 7.3% increase from the previous year's rate of 73.1% and continues a historical trend that has seen a nearly 17% increase in the graduation rate since 2007.

OUR SCHOOLS

🌀 **Elementary Schools**

B.T. Bullock • Broadway •
Deep River • Greenwood •
J. Glenn Edwards •
J.R. Ingram Jr. • Tramway

🌀 **Middle Schools**

East Lee • SanLee •
West Lee

🌀 **High Schools**

Lee County • Southern Lee
• Lee Early College

🌀 **Special Schools**

Bragg Street • Floyd L.
Knight • Warren Williams



**ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF EVERYONE WILL WE
SUCCEED IN OUR MISSION TO TEACH EACH STUDENT
THE SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC SKILLS NEEDED TO
BECOME A RESPONSIBLE AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN.”**

— SUPERINTENDENT JEFF MOSS

innovation

1:1 laptops program



AS THE WORLD BECOMES INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT

... on technology, using a computer has become a necessary part of most jobs and is required by all colleges and universities. The earlier students are given exposure to computers, the more competitive they are in gaining entrance to the college or university of their choice or obtaining a better job in the workforce.

Recognizing this fact, Lee County schools purchased laptops for all middle school students and teachers last year, investing over one and a half million dollars as part of an effort to bring technology to every classroom.

This year, all third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students have also been provided their very own laptops. Dr. Jeff Moss, superintendent of Lee County Schools, is firm in his support of technology in the classroom, "By incorporating computers into the everyday curriculum, students also will be given the opportunity to accelerate their own analytical, problem solving, and writing skills."

In the 2011-2012 school year, district officials moved the program into the county's two high schools after renovations were completed to support wireless Internet.

Research shows significantly improved writing scores from students with laptops. In fact, students scored better the more extensively they used their laptops in developing and producing their writing. Additionally, the evidence indicates that using their laptops in this fashion helped them to become better writers in general, not just better writers using laptops.



BY THE NUMBERS

397,156 – visits to the LCS website each month

8,956 – laptops available to students and staff

1:1 – laptop to student ratio

14 – hours of technology training teachers received on laptops in classrooms

2 – distance learning labs at Lee County High and Southern Lee High

8,070,852 – math problems worked in First in Math software since September 2010

DID YOU KNOW?

Lee County Schools Superintendent Jeff Moss and J.R. Ingram Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Kim Collazo received the Outstanding Leader Award and the Outstanding Teacher Award respectively, from the North Carolina Technology in Education Society in 2011. The awards were based on the progress Lee County Schools has made in incorporating technology in the classroom – NCTIES is a statewide organization that champions leadership and development in educational technology.

innovation

head of class project

THE HEAD of CLASS PROJECT

DISTRICT'S SCHOOL INCENTIVES FORMULA EARNS STATEWIDE ATTENTION

Lee County is fortunate to have the Lee County Education Foundation, an organization dedicated to securing financial resources for programs that promote excellence in students and schools. In 2010, the Education Foundation announced the creation of the **Head of Class Project**.

Head of Class awards \$50,000 annually to the faculty and staff of the best performing elementary school in Lee County. Using a locally-developed formula, the schools will be compared with fairness and objectivity. While the cash award is impressive and the formula a first of its kind, it's really the blending of our community's public and private interests to advance the education of our children that should be highlighted here.

Our business community understands the importance of education and how it eventually impacts their bottom line and our business owners (whether through the Chamber's Education Committee, the Education Foundation or Communities In Schools) who play an active role in pushing LCS to become one of the best school systems in the state.

QUOTABLE

"You have developed a formula and a plan that is usable, and I think it will be modeled throughout the state and throughout the country."

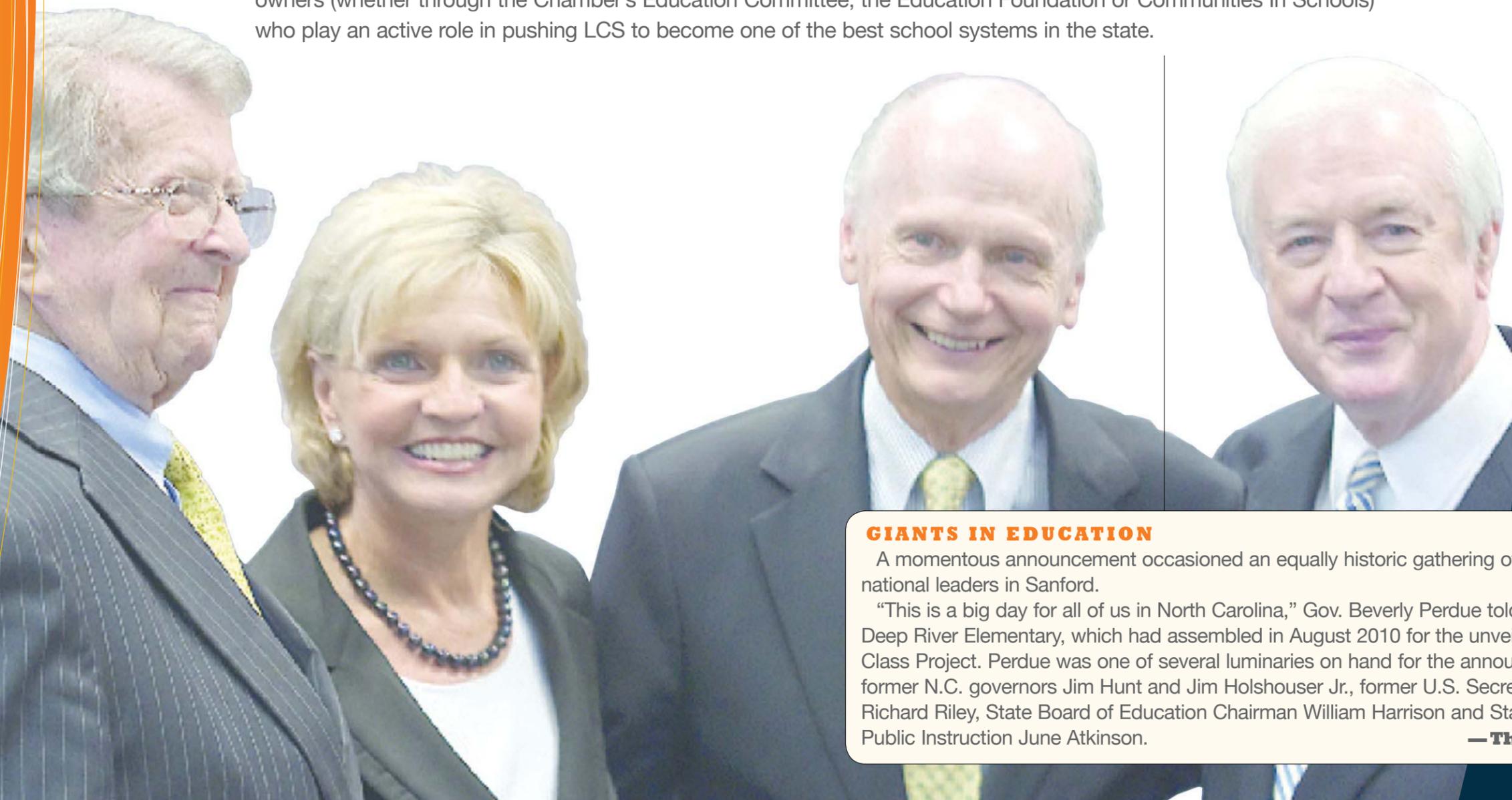
—Richard Riley, former U.S. Secretary of Education and former governor of South Carolina, speaking about Lee County's Head of Class Project

GIANTS IN EDUCATION

A momentous announcement occasioned an equally historic gathering of state, local and national leaders in Sanford.

"This is a big day for all of us in North Carolina," Gov. Beverly Perdue told an audience at Deep River Elementary, which had assembled in August 2010 for the unveiling of the Head of Class Project. Perdue was one of several luminaries on hand for the announcement — joining former N.C. governors Jim Hunt and Jim Holshouser Jr., former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, State Board of Education Chairman William Harrison and State Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson.

—The Sanford Herald



innovation

Smartboards • i3D program



GONE ARE THE DAYS OF BLACKBOARDS AND CHALK DUST

Gone even are white boards and dry erase markers. Today's Lee County students are learning in their classrooms via SMART Board technology. Every elementary and middle school classroom is equipped with a SMART Board, which incorporates a computer, internet access, downloadable lessons, a projector and touch-screen technology in an effort to better engage today's tech-savvy kids.

Teachers can add sounds, images and video to their lesson plans and can even save any work done on the SMART Board — including anything “written” on the board using the touch screen — to a website where students and parents can review the lessons at a later time.

To further engage the students, Elmos, or document cameras, can be found in classrooms and being used in conjunction with the SMART Boards. Elmos can project images onto the SMART Boards from text, student projects and experiments.

This allows each student to participate in all aspects of the assignment.



QUOTABLE

“We’re learning how to incorporate technology into daily lessons. We’re thrilled that we are educating children in a 21st Century classroom. ... We want to develop life-long learning and provide the skills in as many rich experiences as they can get.”

—Sylvia Bayer, director
at Warren Williams Child
Development Center

i3D



A teacher projects a 3D model of a human head into the room. Students use a wireless mouse to virtually inspect the head, examining and discussing each of the layers and their functions. As the teacher points out the muscle in the back of the neck, the student right clicks over the muscle and “trapezius” appears on the screen.

One student opens her laptop and Googles “brain injuries.” She reads that concussions cause “blood vessels between the brain and skull to rupture and bleed.” She asks if they can see the blood vessels in the head. The classmate continues to reveal 3D pictures of the inner structure of the brain.

When the students arrive the next day, a nationally acclaimed brain injury specialist from Baltimore is hosting a video conference in the classroom. The class is attentive and with each reference he makes, students scroll over the 3D model to associate the injury with the correct anatomy.

innovation

The STEM program



STEM: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH

RECENTLY INTRODUCED LABS ARE PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Whether it's powering robots, lifting fingerprints or building balsa wood bridges, middle school students in Lee County are learning through interesting and innovative ways in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) labs to prepare for jobs in the global economy.

Students, beginning in sixth grade, work in pairs at computer terminals with 16 self-guided learning modules like hydraulics, mechanics or electricity.

Paxton/Patterson, a world leader in computer based teaching aids, installed the labs and uses Lee County's Southern Lee High School as their Global Learning Center. Each summer, three week-long training sessions are held at Southern, bringing together the best and brightest teachers and great ideas to improve STEM curriculum. "This positions our school district as a leader in STEM education, not only in North Carolina but across the country," said Dr. Andy Bryan, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

Increasing student interest in these fields is seen as essential by educators, so students can compete for 21st Century jobs.

East Lee Principal George Raley has witnessed how students grow by taking part in STEM classes. With at least nine weeks in a technology lab or biotechnology course, plus integration with core subjects, students receive significant instruction in critical thinking. "One neat thing is that as students get deeper into these learning modules, they begin weaning themselves from constant guidance of the teacher," Raley said. "They develop a self-confidence and a genuine interest in the subject – they find their passion."

Cameron McIver, 12, bounced into the lab and smiled widely as he showed off his paper rocket. "It's really fun," Cameron said. "I like it. This is very cool."

QUOTABLE

"Today, only 14 percent of all undergraduate students enroll in what we call the STEM subjects. ...We can do better than that. We must do better than that. If we're going to make sure the good jobs of tomorrow stay in America, we need to make sure all our companies have a steady stream of skilled workers to draw from."

—President Barack Obama, on the importance of STEM education, speaking at an LED light manufacturing plant in Durham in 2011



innovation

foreign languages • rosetta stone



The incorporation of a popular foreign language software into Lee County Schools' 1:1 laptop program was a big step for Lee County Schools in 2011.

Students were given access to 25 languages thanks to the implementation of Rosetta Stone, the popular computer-based foreign language learning tool. In addition to the commonly-taught Spanish, French and German, Rosetta Stone enables Lee County Schools to offer languages such as Portuguese, Hindi and Mandarin Chinese as early as elementary school.

A trial run began in January, and over the summer, district officials met to discuss the best ways to implement the software in classrooms district-wide.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Andy Bryan said since only 9 percent of the U.S. population is bilingual, Rosetta Stone will help Lee County students become more competitive in a global market.

"We believe that at the rate of change that's happening in the world right now, the world is getting smaller," Bryan said.

According to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, programs like Rosetta Stone have a big impact on a student's development. The council says learning a second language at an early age has a positive effect on intellectual growth, enriches a child's mental development, encourages students to be more flexible thinkers, improves their understanding of their own language and opens the door to other cultures and career opportunities that aren't afforded to those without a second language.

QUOTABLE

"The power to learn a language is so great in the young child that it doesn't seem to matter how many languages you seem to throw their way. They can learn as many spoken languages as you can allow them to hear systematically and regularly at the same time. Children just have this capacity."

—Dr. Susan Curtiss,
UCLA Linguistics professor



E-LEE COLLEGE ACADEMY

Lee County Schools' juniors and seniors have an opportunity to get a head start on their college educations - for free. The E-Lee Academy, with courses taught online, offers college-bound students up to 45 credit hours.

These courses are part of Central Carolina Community College's Associate in Arts degree program. Courses and credits will transfer, intact, to any college in the UNC System and some private colleges. Students also receive credit toward their diploma. North Carolina's Learn and Earn Initiative will pay all tuition and textbook costs.

Academy classes will be held on both high school campuses, either in computer labs or a location where students use laptops. Classes will be taught by college instructors during the regular school day and the high schools will provide an online course facilitator in the classroom.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2010-2011, Lee County Schools had a total enrollment of 9,654 students, of which, more than 81% said they had plans to attend college after graduation.

EXCELLENCE

Lee County Schools has a rich history of excellence. Its faculty, programs and schools are on the cutting-edge. Its programs and services give our students an advantage, so they can compete and succeed in today's world of work.

What sets us apart?

Our students and graduates are our best gauge of success. They tell our story best.

“ IT WAS THE INVESTED INTEREST AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH TEACHERS, FACULTY AND PARENTS THAT HELPED PUSH ME TO GREATER HEIGHTS THROUGHOUT MY ACADEMIC CAREER IN LEE COUNTY.”

— RICKY HURTADO, LCHS GRADUATE

success



OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES

Lee County Schools' journey of excellence continues. These students' stories demonstrate our true goal for the innovative programs that we offer and the advantages we provide. We want to give all our students the tools for success they need. The tools they deserve. We're building the futures for many other students who attend our schools and begin their own journeys of excellence. Quite simply, we're building the future, one student at a time.



john coggin

LEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (HARVARD UNIVERSITY)

John Coggin graduated summa cum laude in 2009 from N.C. State, where he received a Park Scholarship, the university's highest scholarship honor. He also received the Kay Yow "Spirit of the Village" Award and the inaugural President Clinton Hunger Leadership Award.

How did Lee County Schools help him succeed at all levels?

"My science classes were among the best courses that I took at Lee Senior. We dove right into real science that challenged students' minds and prepared them to compete in an innovative and global scientific market. I learned through relevant experimentation

— hitting golf balls to learn physics and researching the details of sending humans to Mars in an extensive Physical Science project."

These hands-on experiences enabled Coggin to visualize the material and retain it better, Coggin said, instilling a love of science.

"At N.C. State, I ended up adding a self-designed second major in the study of the relationship between science and religion. LCHS has state-of-the-art computers and well-equipped labs, and the teachers are there to train the students and inspire a love of learning. Fantastic teachers and programs prepared me well for N.C. State and Harvard."

hillary akers

LEE EARLY COLLEGE (UNC-PEMBROKE)

Coming out of middle school, Hillary Akers wanted to hit the ground running toward her academic future. That's why she enrolled in Lee Early College — a unique opportunity in Lee County for students



to earn their diploma and an associate's degree in just four years by going to classes that fit both criteria on the campus of Central Carolina Community College.

"All the college-level classes that I took at CCCC have transferred to UNC-Pembroke. Therefore, I will be starting already with an associate's degree and will be able to skip all the required general education courses and will go straight into the Mass Communications Program."

Jay Hollingsworth

LEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (DUKE UNIVERSITY)



Duke University is recognized as one of the top institutions of higher learning in the nation. Jay Hollingsworth is a former Lee County Schools student-athlete who says the foundation he received in high school has been critical to his success.

“The access to technology in high school was beneficial — technology that I have yet to even encounter here at Duke. I am majoring in Computer Science, and the engineering courses I took at Lee Senior exposed me to some computer programs that will help me as I’m completing my major here.

“During my last three years in high school, my English courses were difficult but taught by teachers who were a significant positive in my life as a student and as a person. Those three courses can be compared to the rigorous courses in college.

“I was able to balance academics and athletics because Lee Senior helped me to be disciplined and manage my time efficiently. It was at Lee Senior that I really learned to discipline myself, and my teachers and coaches played a significant role in making it a priority for me.”



QUOTABLE

“The honors and AP classes prepared me the most for the courses that I’m taking at Virginia Tech. Academics were also emphasized on the athletic field. The coaches were dedicated to the team and expected in return for the players to be dedicated student athletes. The first priority was the classroom and then came the team.”

—Brittany 'bkaye' Smith
Southern Lee High School
graduate who currently plays
softball for Virginia Tech





QUOTABLE

“One thing I remember about high school was Mock United Nations Week. This was a great opportunity to learn about other countries and cultures, especially in this ever-increasing global society. It really sparked my interest in travel! I have since traveled throughout Europe, the Caribbean and around Southeast Asia.”

—Matt Kain
Lee County High School graduate who received an engineering degree from N.C. State and law degree from UNC



ricky hurtado

LEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (MOREHEAD-CAIN SCHOLAR)

The Morehead-Cain Scholarship is the oldest, most prestigious merit scholarship awarded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There are only a few winners each year, and Ricky Hurtado was one of them.

He credits this achievement to multiple layers of support at all levels of his educational growth with Lee County Schools.

“It was the invested interest and personal relationships with teachers, faculty and parents that helped push me to greater heights throughout my academic career in Lee County. They taught me to dream big, be relentless in pursuit of results, but more importantly, were extremely supportive and believed in me throughout the entire process.”

noelle marsh

LEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (DANCER, TV STAR)

Noelle Marsh is the epitome of a small-town girl making it big.

Fresh off graduating with the Class of 2009 at Lee County High School, Marsh was putting her 15 years of formal dance training to use by auditioning for the popular Fox reality television show, “So You Think You Can Dance.”

By year’s end, she was in the show’s Top 10 —a goal thousands of dancers strive for each year and don’t achieve. She has since danced alongside actor Neil Patrick Harris at the Academy Awards and with Hugh Laurie on the hit television show, “House.” It’s safe to say Marsh has gone from student to celebrity in just two short years, though she shies away from the “C” word.

“I don’t register in my head, though, that I’m a ‘celebrity.’ I’m just here being myself ... this is what I’ve always wanted to do, and I think dance is the biggest part of my life.”

Though she now resides in Los Angeles, Marsh makes several trips to Sanford to visit family and classmates throughout the year. Her success has inspired current students in Lee County Schools to work hard and achieve their dreams.

“She’s my inspiration,” says LCS student Parker McNeill, who’s been taught by Noelle in local dance studios. “I want to be just like her.”



tyler smith

SOUTHERN LEE HIGH SCHOOL (U.S. Army)

Southern Lee graduate Tyler Smith surrounded himself with positive influences while in high school.

He developed close relationships with his teachers and guidance counselors. He was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes club. He was the director of outreach for his church youth group.

But Smith didn't always make such beneficial choices. He used to be in a gang, but his church and his school motivated him to change his course in life.

"There's no point in making enemies with someone you don't even know just because they wear a different color bandana," Smith said.

Before joining the Army, Smith became a motivational speaker who shared his story with people and talked to them about how the choices they make could affect their futures.

"If you really want something, there are things you've got to do," Smith said. "It won't just come."

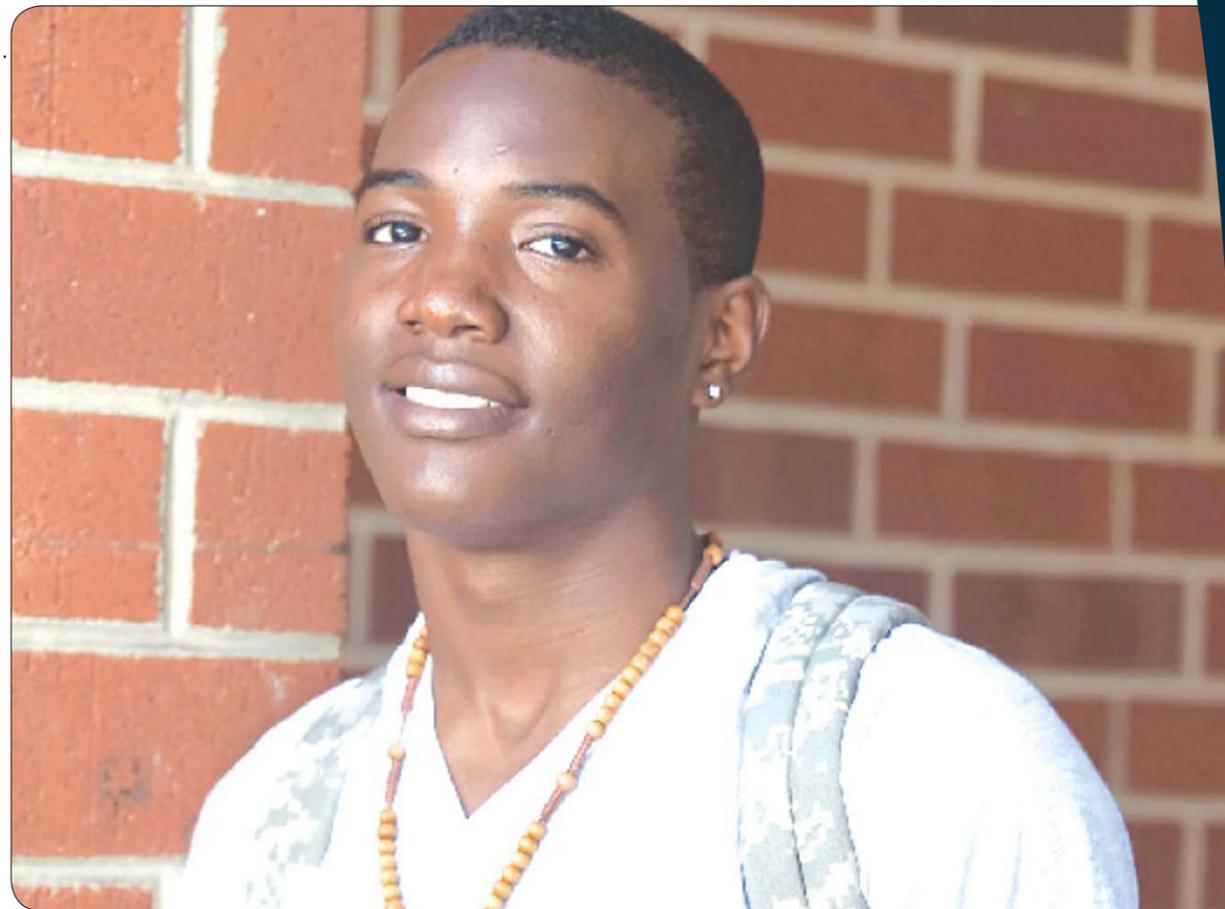
Keri Pannell, who was Smith's guidance counselor his junior and senior years, said she is amazed at how far Smith has come and is confident he has a bright future ahead of him.

"Tyler has really made a difference," Pannell said. "When he first started out, he ran through some rough times, but he made up his mind that he was going to change his situation and make things better for him. He's a remarkable young man."

Smith said he learned from those at Southern Lee who helped him succeed.

"Many special people helped me," Smith said. "Plus, I had a strong faith in God. But I knew I had to work hard, and Ms. Pannell gave me great encouragement.

"There were times I felt like giving up, but they helped motivate me and told me to stay focused. High school is stressful no matter what grade you're in, but you can't give up."



luis velarde

SOUTHERN LEE HIGH SCHOOL (UNC-CHAPEL HILL)

With a GPA of 4.7, Luis Velarde became Southern Lee's first Latino valedictorian in 2010. Though he is proud of his accomplishments, Velarde said earning the title of valedictorian wasn't something he set out to do.



"It's just something that happened," Velarde said. "I was never the type of student to take AP classes just to raise my GPA. I took classes I was interested in." Paola Gensollen, Velarde's mother and a special education teacher at Southern Lee, said she has high hopes for her son, now a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he is studying pharmacy. "He has always had high expectations," Gensollen said. "He wants to reach them, and he tries hard."

Though he's making new friends and learning new things in Chapel Hill, Velarde says he is grateful for the support the Southern Lee teachers have offered him. "A lot of the teachers I've had are very accessible," Velarde said. "You can go talk to them. It's not just about the classroom."



TEACHER OF THE YEAR: 2011

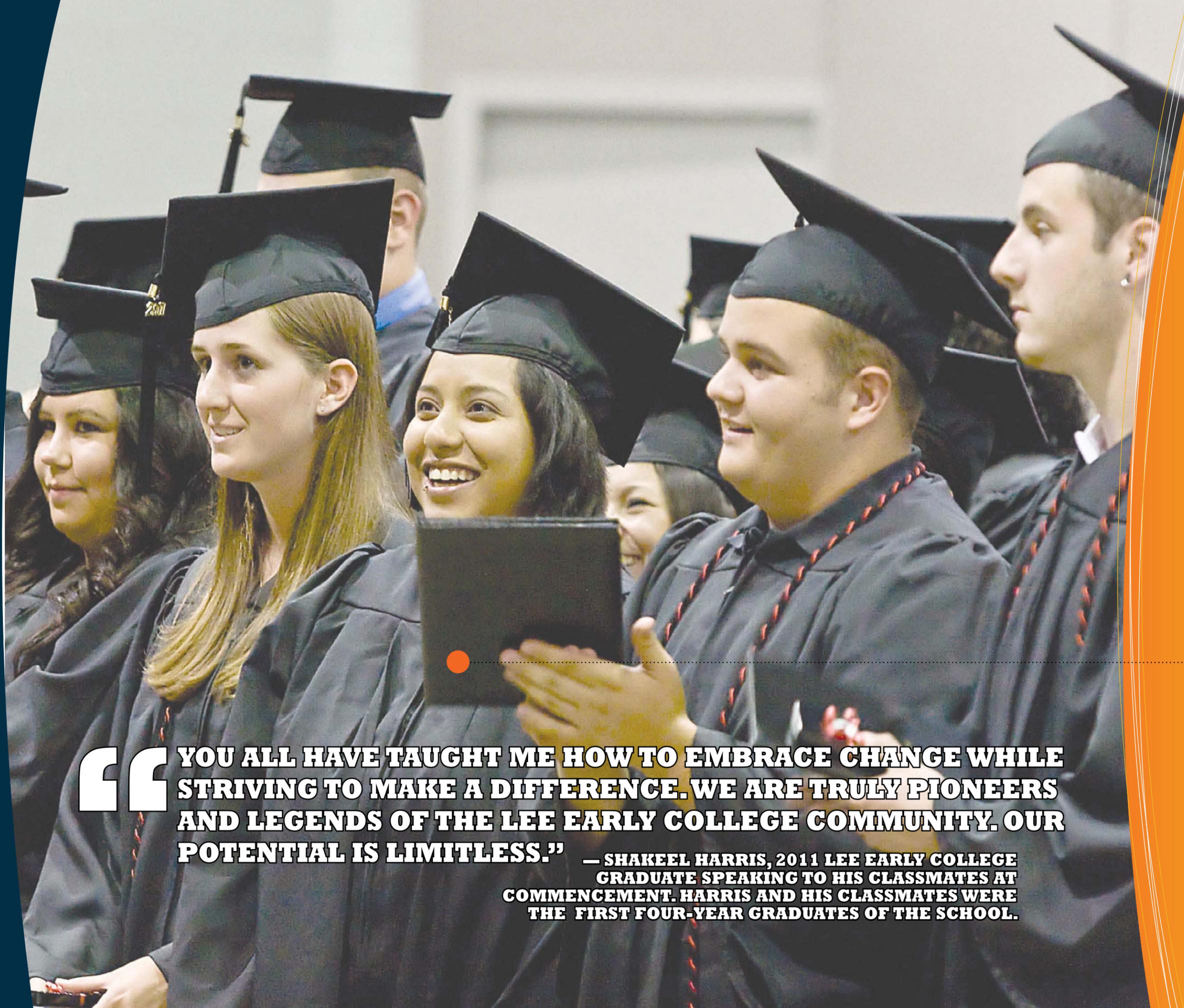
For SanLee Middle School sixth-grade math teacher Vincent Pienaar, a math class involves more than just writing numbers on the board. He uses computer programs and iPod Touch apps to engage his students in learning math and makes the process of finding the answer interactive. His affinity for incorporating technology into his lessons is one of many reasons Pienaar was named Lee County Schools' Teacher of the Year. Pienaar received the Teacher of the Year honor in May 2011 and was awarded a cash prize from Wachovia and a Chevrolet Cruze from Wilkinson Chevrolet-Cadillac-Buick-GMC.



QUOTABLE

"I'm excited to go on to college, but Sanford has always been my home. It's so close-knit. I think what will really hit me are the people I saw every day and the little things people have done. I'll miss them."

—Dare Hincks,
2011 Lee County High School
graduate and current freshman
at Meredith University in Raleigh



“ YOU ALL HAVE TAUGHT ME HOW TO EMBRACE CHANGE WHILE STRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE ARE TRULY PIONEERS AND LEGENDS OF THE LEE EARLY COLLEGE COMMUNITY. OUR POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS.”

— SHAKEEL HARRIS, 2011 LEE EARLY COLLEGE GRADUATE SPEAKING TO HIS CLASSMATES AT COMMENCEMENT. HARRIS AND HIS CLASSMATES WERE THE FIRST FOUR-YEAR GRADUATES OF THE SCHOOL.

choice



year-round school at tramway elementary

TEACHERS HAVE CONSIDERABLY MORE PLANNING TIME ...
REGULAR BREAKS HAVE PROVEN TO ENERGIZE STUDENTS

Tramway Elementary School opened in August 1999 as Lee County's first year-round school. In 2009, a sixth kindergarten classroom was added and in 2010, a sixth first-grade classroom was added. Tramway currently serves the largest population of elementary students in the county.

As a school of choice in Lee County, Tramway invites all children in the county to apply to attend. Students are chosen randomly by a lottery system. Many parents find that a year-round program is well suited to their student's learning style, as well as to the family's life-style. With this schedule, families have more flexibility in planning vacations.

The year-round schedule is divided into four 9-week quarters with 3-week inter-sessions (breaks) at the end of each quarter. Students are in



school for 180 days, the same number of days as their counterparts in traditional schools.

Some students and parents find this continuity enhances the learning process. Teachers have considerably more planning time and the regular breaks have proven to energize students and teachers.

DID YOU KNOW?

By 2012, education groups estimate that more than 5 million students — about 10 percent of all children enrolled in American public schools — could be going to school year-round.

—Source: MSNBC

an early start at lee early college

THE STUDENTS' SCHEDULES ARE DEVELOPED SO THEY CAN FINISH
BOTH THEIR DIPLOMAS AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE WITHIN FOUR YEARS

In 2006, young ninth-grade pioneers began an experiment in a new, challenging educational experience. Lee Early College, a joint venture between Central Carolina Community College and Lee County Schools located on the college's campus, provided the perfect setting.

Four years later, seven of these pioneers earned not only their high school diplomas but also associate degrees or college transfer credits, giving them a boost toward their educational goals. These students began the Fall 2010 semester as freshmen, but in the spring, all their CCCC credits transferred and they

immediately became juniors.

North Carolina is a leader in the establishment of early colleges. Nationally, there are about 130 early colleges in 24 states — 42 of those in North Carolina. Students must apply to be considered for acceptance.

Lee Early College's first five-year class graduated in the Spring 2011 semester. Those students began the program in 2006 as eighth-graders. More than 250 students are currently enrolled at LEC.

Visit leearlycollege.com or
cccc.edu to learn more





community

communities in schools of lee county

According to Lee County Director Heather Little, CIS believes students need five basic life tools:

- A personal, one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A chance to give back to peers and the community

Many children come to school without having access to things like shelter, good nutrition, eye glasses and a multitude of personal, family, social and academic problems. These things, if not addressed, can make school success difficult or impossible. While the needs of many children are very basic, the help they need remains just out of reach, tangled in a confusion of agencies scattered throughout the community.

That's where Communities In Schools makes the difference. Its programs combine the five basics to help students get the services they need to be successful in school. CIS works hand in hand with the school to provide these services; coordinated by a CIS Site Coordinator that works on location at school.

"We're not a blanket organization," said Little. "We look at each individual school and each individual child. We try to determine with the help of the school system what each school needs and how we can help."

Programs like Book Buddies that pair a mentor with a child to improve their reading skills; Backpack Pals which sends home needed nutrition on the weekend to children who might otherwise go without; Vision Vouchers so children can see the board; and service learning opportunities that let them have a chance to give back to their community.

The results of a recent five-year evaluation of the national dropout prevention organization Communities in Schools revealed the CIS model is the most effective dropout prevention program in the country.

QUOTABLE

"Over the course of their life, a single dropout equates to \$275,000 in lost earnings, taxes and productivity. It's obvious we've got to combat this problem. Without strong support of a model like Communities in Schools, we're really at risk as a state of hurting our future."

—Rebecca Clendenin,
Communities in Schools of
North Carolina



PHOTOS: Students and volunteers take part in Fill the Bus and Backpack Pal events designed to provide less fortunate students in Lee County Schools with supplies and healthy food to help them during the school year.



we were all affected by the **april 16 tornado** ...

J. Glenn Edwards Elementary School was one of the 450-plus buildings in Lee County damaged by the April 16, 2011 tornado, part of a storm system that killed 25 people in North Carolina (two in Lee County) and caused millions upon millions of dollars in damage to our county and state.

The damage sustained at the school was minimal, but more important to the school district was the fact that several students and teachers either lost their homes or were affected in a big way by the deadly tornado.

But Lee County's worst natural disaster in its 104-year history also brought out the best in its people. Those same students and teachers who lost their homes or were temporarily displaced saw their co-workers, classmates and volunteers from their community and from out of state roll up their sleeves and lend a hand in their time of need.

SanLee Middle School served as a shelter in the days following the storm, and despite the damage (blown out windows and doors and serious damage to its room), J. Glenn Edwards was up and running on schedule by the time Spring Break ended.

Heading into the 2011-2012 school year, signs of the April 16 tornado were still visible throughout the county. But with each week, there were signs of progress, from renovated businesses to new homes along the storm's path.

STUDENTS STEP UP

Ashton Morse emerged from the bathroom he shared with his father and stepmother during the the April 16 tornado that struck his St. Andrews community to find the storm had not totally decimated his home. Then he looked across the street and saw a very different scene at the home of Jordan Thomas, his best friend since childhood.

The Thomas home was all but destroyed. The roof was off, and he could see into Jordan's room from the ground. To help his friend and their community, Morse came up with the idea that the pair should put on a golf tournament. Thomas, a member of the Southern Lee golf team, was all for it.

The June tournament at Quail Ridge Golf Course raised money for N.C. Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Ministry. The teens decided to go with the Baptist organization because they have been promised that all proceeds will be used in Lee County relief efforts.



CHARACTER EDUCATION

Every public elementary school in Lee County now offers "character education" for fifth- and some fourth-graders in an arrangement organized and conducted entirely by volunteers from local civic groups. The schools are helping students understand important values like kindness, respect and integrity ... how they help us live ethically, with a concern for others ... and even how they help us enjoy more rewarding lives. Through guest speakers and one-on-one mentoring, volunteers visit twice a month to give concrete examples of what each virtue means — and to demonstrate, through the examples they set, how those virtues affect our daily lives.

community votes 'yes' for LCHS improvements

LEE ONE OF FEW COUNTIES TO APPROVE SALES TAX INCREASE

If at first you don't succeed — try, try again. That motto worked for proponents of a .25-cent sales tax increase in Lee County in November 2009, as the referendum passed by nearly a 2-to-1 margin, with 3,799 voters (66.5 percent) casting ballots in favor and 1,910 (33.5) against.

The same tax referendum failed by a 55-45 margin in 2008.

The affirmative vote raised the county sales tax rate from 7.75 percent to 8 percent of sales on most non-essential items. Those tax dollars have since been used to pay for a \$23.2 million renovation of Lee County High School.

"This vote makes a profound statement about our sense of values and responsibility for the future of our youth and our own long-term welfare," Lee County Commissioner Richard Hayes said after the referendum passed. "I am happy for what this will mean to our economy and prospects for attracting new business and industry."

Officials got an up-close tour of the new facility in Summer 2011. LCHS Principal Greg Batten said the most significant construction projects currently under way are the new administration building and new classroom building, which were included in Tuesday's tour. The administration building will serve as the campus' new "front door" and tie into the classroom buildings. Those buildings should be ready for students and faculty to occupy this fall.

Construction is on track to be completed in Summer 2012. As buildings have been torn



the future

DID YOU KNOW?

SanLee Middle School, Lee County's third middle school and one of its newest campuses, celebrated the grand opening of its new STEM lab in 2010. The school has a five-year, \$350,000 partnership with Chicago-based Paxton-Patterson to make Lee County the sole global learning center for training purposes in the country.



down, mobile units have gone up and dust has covered the sidewalks, Batten said he has been impressed by how quickly the students and staff have adapted to navigating the campus.

"Certainly it's an exciting time to see how it's changed," Batten said. "I really want to commend the staff, students and community for handling it so well, a large campus under construction. I know a lot of people will be glad to get rid of the dust and the mud, but it will be well worth it in the end."



Board of Education member Bill Tatum, Superintendent Jeff Moss, LCHS Principal Greg Batten and former U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge present the first brick for the renovation of Lee County High School at the groundbreaking ceremony in 2010.

**“ THROUGH THESE DOORS WHEN THIS SCHOOL IS COMPLETED
WILL PASS THE FUTURE ... FOR LEE COUNTY, FOR
NORTH CAROLINA AND FOR THE NATION.”**

**— BOB ETHERIDGE,
FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE 2010
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR LCHS RENOVATIONS**



CONTRIBUTORS

Content: Billy Liggett and Alexa Milan (The Sanford Herald), The Sanford Area Chamber of Commerce

Photography: Wesley Beeson (The Sanford Herald), Dana Atkins (Dana Atkins Photography)

Special thanks to Lee County Schools, Lee County Second Century, The Sanford Herald, Progress Energy and the Sanford Area Association of Realtors

apel Hill and Duke University

Deep River

To Jordan Lake, I-540, RTP, RDU, NC State University and Raleigh



LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

- 1) DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY: 4000 DEEP RIVER ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 776-2722
- 2) BRAGG STREET ACADEMY: 504 BRAGG STREET • SANFORD • (919) 775-2686
- 3) LEE COUNTY HIGH: 1708 NASH ST. • SANFORD • (919) 776-7541
- 4) FLOYD L. KNIGHT CENTER: 607 MCINTOSH ST. • SANFORD • (919) 774-4634
- 5) B.T. BULLOCK ELMENTARY: 1410 MCNEIL ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 718-0160
- 6) WARREN WILLIAMS CENTER: 901 LAWRENCE ST. • SANFORD • (919) 774-3529
- 7) WEST LEE MIDDLE: 3301 WICKER ST. • SANFORD • (919) 775-7351
- 8) J.R. INGRAM ELEMENTARY: 3309 WICKER ST. • SANFORD • (919) 774-3772
- 9) TRAMWAY ELEMENTARY: 360 CENTER CHURCH ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 718-0170
- 10) SOUTHERN LEE HIGH: 2301 TRAMWAY ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 718-2400
- 11) J. GLENN EDWARDS ELEMENTARY: 3115 CEMETERY ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 774-3733
- 12) EAST LEE MIDDLE: 1337 BROADWAY ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 776-8441
- 13) BROADWAY ELEMENTARY: 307 SOUTH MAIN ST. • BROADWAY • (919) 258-3828
- 14) GREENWOOD ELEMENTARY: 1127 GREENWOOD ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 776-0506
- 15) SANLEE MIDDLE: 2309 TRAMWAY ROAD • SANFORD • (919) 708-7227
- 16) LEE EARLY COLLEGE: 1105 KELLY DRIVE • SANFORD • (919) 718-7259

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PO BOX 1010 • 106 GORDON ST. • SANFORD • PHONE: (919)774-6226 • FAX: (919)776-4954
 WEBSITE: WWW.LEE.K12.NC.US/INDEX.HTML

Sanford

Broadway

To Greensboro

421

15

501

1

5

6

2

16

8

7

4

3

12

Lee Christian School

Historic Jonesboro

421 BYPASS

78

13

9

Tramway

10

15

11

421

Grace Christian School

14

Optmist Family Park

Sanford-Lee County Airport

Camelback Bridge

Cumnock

Northview

