

Alliance Notes



It is going to be a busy year for the Athens Drive Business Alliance

The ADHS Business Alliance is anxious to implement their programs for the present school year.

The Alliance is comprised of 16 members representing ADHS faculty, PTSA, area businesses, higher education and two ADHS students. Meetings are held on a monthly basis from August to May.

Five teams work within the Alliance to create and implement the programs which support the development of both students and teachers. In addition, a steering team reviews all ideas and plans to ensure that they align with the Alliance mission statement.

The five teams are Career Development, Communications, Membership/Sourcing, Staffing Development and Technology.

This year's plans include:

Organizing individual and group job shadowing opportunities.

Alliance members sponsor student job shadowing opportunities throughout the year, during Youth & Business Day on 11/15 and Groundhog Shadowing Day in February.

Sponsoring Career Exploration trips to area businesses.

Students visit area businesses to learn about different industries, careers and education requirements for

the school Career Pathways program.

Continued support of the Cisco Academy.

The academy is now in its third year. This two-year program is for juniors and seniors.

Hosting business tours for teachers.

Teachers have the opportunity to visit area companies to learn information which will assist them in teaching their students.

Partnerships with Wake Tech.

Partnership allows Wake Tech students to assist with computer needs at Athens. Wake

students are also creating an Alliance web site and working closely with Athen students on the ADHS site.

The Athens Drive Alliance was established in 1994 and is recognized throughout the state for being a benchmark for education and business working together.

Alliance Mission Statement:

Our mission is to link the resources from community stakeholders (businesses, educators, parents and other community members) to enhance the school-to-career transition of every student as they become responsible and productive citizens.

specific positions.

Participation in monthly career fairs.

This is a new program for 2001. Alliance members will be visiting the school each month, providing students the opportunity to learn of career options within their organizations and industries. This works with

Alliance Membership

- Jane Dodge
ADHS CDC/Counselor
- Kathy Chontos
ADHS Principal
- Margaret VonGonten
ADHS Assist.Principal/
Staff Development & PTSA
representative
- Bill Reece
ADHS CIC/Staff Development
- Wilda Whitley
ADHS Faculty/Technology
- Two ADHS Student Representative
- Alcatel USA
- Apple Computer
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Gregory Poole Equipment Company
- Manpower
- N.C. Community Colleges
- Piedmont Air Conditioning
- Wake AHEC
- Wake Technical Community College

Alliance 1999-2000 Accomplishments

Career Development

- *Career Club*
- *Class resource speakers*
- *Job Shadowing opportunities*

Communication

- *Distribution of Alliance brochure to faculty and parents*
- *Alliance information in PTSA newsletter*
- *Alliance display in main hallway*
- *Distribution of Alliance Notes to faculty twice during school year*

Membership/Sourcing

- *Recruitment of two new Alliance members*
- *Implementation support of School-to-Career grant*
- *Worked with WCPSS to share Alliance processes with other schools*

Staffing Development

- *Coordinated with Glaxo Wellcome to teach MS Suite classes to ADHS faculty*
- *Worked to implement School-to-Career grant*

Technology

- *First year of Cisco Academy*
- *Acquisition of Video Streaming equipment*
- *Partnership with Wake Tech to provide maintenance support on school computer equipment*

Communications

The Communication Team is focused on keeping students, faculty and parents informed of Alliance activities.

In addition to this brochure, this team will distribute two additional Alliance Notes newsletters in November and March to faculty members.

Students can keep up-to-date on Alliance

events through the Alliance display in the ADHS main hallway. Parents will be kept up-to-date via the PTSA newsletter.

Communication is also sponsoring an Alliance logo contest for students in September.

Membership/Sourcing

Membership/Sourcing supports the Alliance by providing resources required to meet goals. Resources can include businesses, organizations and educational institutions.

Specific goals include providing well known speakers and experts as needed to support Alliance and school functions.

Keeping members aware of Alliance best practices and processes throughout the state. In addition, ensuring that the Alliance is well positioned to take advantage of School-to-Career opportunities such as grants, programs, conferences, etc.

Staffing Development

Creating learning experiences that support teachers in their acquisition of knowledge and skills needed to enhance the education of students, is the goal of the Staffing Development Team.

Utilizing the resources of Alliance members and other companies and organizations, teachers are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of training classes. Options include: Software training, Problem Solving, Conflict

Management, Communication Skills, Team Building and Leadership.

The Alliance also plans to provide teachers the opportunity to visit area businesses and organizations that can assist them in their teaching. Such as the Science teachers visiting an area pharmaceutical company. Plus other locations that are identified throughout the year.

Technology

The Technology Team's objective is to assist with the integration of technology into the school and to facilitate teacher integration of technology into their curriculum.

The Cisco Academy is now in its second year with 18 seniors. An additional 21 juniors began the two-year program in August.

The Video Streaming equipment purchased last year is now in the installation process. Six PC's currently have Video Str

Streaming access. Installation continues and will eventually provide student access in each classroom.

Three teachers from Wake Tech are teaching classes at Athens. Classes include Keyboarding using Office Suite, Visual Basic and Access, and Fundamentals of Networking.

Alliance member profile:

Michael Cranford

Business Alliance Chairman

In 1994 Mike Cranford received notification about the Wake County Alliance directions. States Mike, "I volunteered. I have always had an interest and caring to assist youth in preparing for the future beyond high school. This sounded like an opportunity."

That was seven years ago and since that time, Mike has served as the Alliance vice-chairman, sponsored the Vocational Honor Society induction ceremony in 1998 and the Vocational Champions scholarship program in 2001, he has spoken to over 1000 students during class presentations, sponsored several apprenticeship students, provided opportunities for special needs students to work at Gregory Poole Equipment Company and was responsible for delivering the large spirit rock at the ADHS campus.

This year Mike is the chairman of the Alliance. Comments ADHS Career Development Coordinator Jane Dodge, "Mike is a dynamic, energetic leader with humor, insight and efficiency. He is able to motivate our Alliance members to continue to serve on their individual committees, continue with our goals and objectives, and do all sorts of projects for the benefit of Athen students."

When asked why he thought the Alliance was beneficial to Athens, Mike replied, "Each year the Alliance has grown and strengthened our mission – 'to enhance the school-to-career transition of every student as they become a responsible and productive citizens.' Our involvement in larger efforts such as the Cisco Academy, numerous on-site company orientations for students at various Business Alliance employers and even minor efforts such as moving a 'spirit' rock, has begun to make an impact upon some of the students by helping them to TRULY think and plan for future careers."

Mike states that his goal for this year is to bring in newer members who are excited, committed and will become long-term members. If they are like Mike, the Athens Drive Alliance will continue to have great success.

Thanks to Gregory Poole Equipment Company for delivering a Spirit Rock to the Middle Creek campus. Gregory Poole delivered the rather large rock at the Athen's campus. Due to its size, that rock could not be relocated so they delivered a new rock to the present campus.

Business Alliance receives Governor's award

"Savor, celebrate and build on small successes, for together over time they make a tremendous impact."

*Wayne Tindle
ADHS Business Alliance*

The Athens Drive Business Alliance is one of 29 schools selected from across the state to receive the Governor's Business Partnership Award. This new award was created to recognize outstanding sustained business and alliance partnerships that have significantly improved student performance. States Phil Kirk, the State Board of Education Chairman, "We are asking more and more of our schools, without always providing the resources they need. That's why parents, local business, community

groups and others are so critical." State Superintendent Mike Ward adds, "These awards recognize community organizations that are supporting student achievement, making schools safer, preparing students for work, and generally improving the lives of children and the work of educators." The awards are sponsored by the Public Schools of North Carolina, Public School Forum/NC Partners and the North Carolina Business Committee for Education. Winners will be recognized at a luncheon

at the Sheraton Imperial on September 21st. The award will be accepted by Wayne Tindle, past chair 2000-2001, and Kathy Chontos, Principal. The Alliance will be presenting a presentation at the Dept. of Public Instruction "Meet me in the middle" conference being held Sept 20-21st at the Sheraton Imperial. The presentation will be presented by Mike Cranford, present chair, with Jane Dodge, ADHS CDC and Wayne Tindle assisting.