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North Carolina in the World **NEWS**

Increasing Student Knowledge and Skills About the World

Tarheel Highlights

- ▶ **Superintendent Atkinson targets global education**
"A focus on international education should be as common in our schools in the 21st century as the pencil was in the 20th century," State Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson said in a December interview. "International education cannot be a course or just a language. It has to permeate throughout the K-12 delivery system."
- ▶ **"Oscar of Teaching" Goes to NC Middle School Teacher**
Aimee Niebauer, an 8th grade teacher at West Millbrook Middle School who emphasizes global education, has been honored as a 2005 Milken Family Foundation National Educator. This prestigious \$25,000 award recognizes teaching excellence. Niebauer will take a group of students to Europe this summer, and she facilitates monthly meetings for parents and students to prepare students for travel overseas. To read a press release...[click here.](#)

National Notes

This Is **What It Looks Like:** Global Education at Work in NC

Only if we continue to accept the challenge to stay educated and are willing, as other nations are, to constantly adapt to a changing global market can we continue to be tomorrow's innovators.

This commitment is exemplified by the Johnson Street Global Studies Extended-Year K-8 Magnet School in High Point, now in its third year.

Johnson Street's school year is 200 days, compared to a traditional 180-day school year. Over the course of a student's nine-year career at the school, she or he receives a full extra year of education. This model is used by many educational institutions around the world so that children attend school for a greater part of the year, explained Dr. Lori Braxton, Principal.

In addition to meeting the required standard course of study at all grade levels, students delve into the study of two specific countries each year using the five themes of geography as a guideline. Global studies are integrated at all grade levels, across all curricula. For example, physical education will include games from other countries. Music, art, media, and technology courses will use global studies throughout the course of the year.

Study of Japanese begins in kindergarten and continues through the eighth grade. Outside guests are often welcome at weekly assemblies of the full student body. Recently, two Japanese students from a local university came in traditional native dress and shared in a discussion with students. Students also present their own global learning to teachers and fellow students through multimedia presentations and skits during weekly assemblies.

Information: Dr. Lori Braxton, Principal, 336-819-2900 or braxtol@gcsnc.com

Progress Report: North Carolina in the World

Advancing Public Policy

Chief Executive Officer for UPS, Michael Eskew, told educators from all over the country that the workforce of tomorrow needs to be globally literate. At the Asia Society's annual States Institute for International Education in the Schools in Washington D.C. earlier this month, Eskew named six traits he was looking for in future employees engaged in world trade: trade literate, sensitive to foreign cultures, conversant in different languages, technology savvy, capable of managing complexity, and ethical. To read a copy of the speech...[click here.](#) The North Carolina delegation participating in the annual policy conference included: State Board of Education Chair Howard Lee, Sen. Janet Cowell, Rep. Joe Tolson, Former Sen. Clark Plexico, Tom Rabon of Red Hat, Mary Musacchia of SAS, Tricia Willoughby of NC Center for 21st Century Skills, former New York Times education editor Ted Fiske, Barbara Kelley of the Asia Society, and Millie Ravenel and Susan Parry of the Center for International Understanding.

► **National Conference Coming to the Triangle**

The University of Denver's annual International Studies Schools Conference will be held Feb. 16 – 19, 2006, at the Sheraton Imperial, RTP. Find resources for adding a global dimension to any discipline. Learn about the best models in delivering K-12 international education. Keynote speakers include Marcus Mabry, Chief of Correspondents for Newsweek; and Elizabeth Burmaster, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Wisconsin, which has developed a curriculum planning guide for integrating international content into state standards for all subjects. For information...[click here](#).

► **States Prepare for Global Age**

NC efforts are highlighted in a new national report on what states are doing in international education. Durham resident and former New York Times Education Editor Ted Fiske authored the report. To read more...[click here](#).



Business Perspective

"By the time kids in Europe finish elementary school, they've been taught three languages. Our culture doesn't do that. We feel like everybody should speak our language, but that's not the way it should be. This is a global world now, a global economy."

**Kim Quinn, President
Prima Tech
Kenansville, NC**

Company Profile

Founded in 1996, Prima Tech manufactures syringes and other equipment used to vaccinate livestock. The company does business in 49 states and 24 countries. Prima Tech's product labels are printed in 8 languages, and Quinn's office clocks are set for 8 different time zones around the world.

Building International Partnerships

Sixty-five of North Carolina's 115 school districts are hosting international exchange teachers this year through the Visiting International Faculty program based in Chapel Hill. A total of 980 highly qualified teachers representing 44 nations are providing instruction in 525 North Carolina schools. VIF teachers currently teach in 20 subject areas, across all grade levels. For more information...[click here](#).

Connecting K-12 & Higher Ed

UNC-Chapel Hill International Studies student Inna Djanians studied in St. Petersburg, Russia, this past semester and invited Guilford County students to join her "virtually". Through a web site and email postings, she shared her impressions with students at Kernodle Middle School. Her site included material on Russian history and culture, learning the alphabet and several photographs from the countryside as well as larger cities. Inna, 20, was born in the former Soviet State off Azerbaijan, and her family moved to High Point in 1992. Several students posted questions and messages to Inna. "It makes it real" for students to know somebody who's in another country, said 6th grade language arts and social studies teacher Sally Smith. This was a pilot program to link University students abroad with North Carolina classrooms. Organizers hope to improve communications and work on tying the abroad experiences to lessons being taught in the classroom as more schools become involved. **Information:** Ruth Mitchell-Pitts, Center for European Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, 919-962-6765 or rmpitts@email.unc.edu



North Carolina in the World is a statewide collaborative effort to prepare students to be citizens, workers and leaders in the global age of the 21st Century.

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