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Increasing Student Knowledge and Skills About the World



Tarheel Highlights

- ▶ **Richard L. Thompson**, a retired vice president of the University of North Carolina system and former deputy state superintendent of North Carolina schools, is now Senior Education Advisor for the Visiting International Faculty Program (VIF). VIF has placed 900 qualified international cultural exchange teachers in North Carolina classrooms this year. For more information...[click here](#).
- ▶ **The State Board of Education** is holding regional meetings around the state centered on a more rigorous core course of study that it adopted in December. The new high school core course of study includes two units of a foreign language. For a list of remaining public meetings...[click here](#).



National Notes

- ▶ **Last month the General Accounting Office (GAO)** released a report summarizing its forum on "Global Competitiveness: Implications for the Nation's Higher Education System." The forum explored ways to continue to attract talented international students to the American work force and higher education institutions, in light of post September 11 challenges. Suggestions include a re-evaluation of the US immigration system to remove barriers for talented international students. To download a copy of the report...

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

Wiley International Elementary Magnet School, Raleigh
Submitted by Cecilia Rawlins, Principal

Imagine a school with children and families from all corners of the globe peacefully coexisting and enjoying each other. Alongside children who are native English speakers are children whose native language is one of the many Spanish-based dialects of Mexico or it's French or German or Russian. Imagine a school in which parents of all nationalities are involved with their children's educational success.

Established in 1898, Wiley Elementary School became Wiley International Elementary Magnet School in 1982 in order to focus on international and global issues. It is a small school of 400 students. The program is designed to develop an understanding of major systems (technological, communications and cultural) that influence the condition of our global village.

The teachers at Wiley understand the struggles of other schools as they work to globalize their classrooms; for we too face daily struggles of balancing what is required to be taught as determined by the North Carolina Standard Course Of Study (NCSCOS) and that which we know is important based on our commitment to internationalism.



Here's a snapshot of some instructional happenings at Wiley:

- Kindergarteners have written a book entitled *The World Would Be A Better Place*. It includes such kindergarten pearls of wisdom as "the world would be a better place . . . if no one cut down trees." Unknowingly, these young children have moved beyond basic concepts to global studies with a focus on the needs of the whole.
- First graders were treated to a presentation by a Wiley student who has spent three weeks traveling throughout Brazil. She helped them to see the country from a child's perspective.
- Visit a second grade class and you're likely to encounter a multitude of Flat Stanleys who have traveled across the globe. These replicas of Wiley students have been mailed around the world with instructions for them to live typical days while on their travels and to return to Wiley ready to educate the students about life in distant places.
- Enter a third grade classroom and you're likely to step on a bean representing one of the thousands of islands in the Philippines. Third graders laboriously glued 7,104 kidney beans to a tarp to visualize the number of islands that make up the Philippines.
- Fourth and fifth graders are studying the five themes of geography as outlined in the NCSCOS. Both grade levels have focused on these themes as they have studied, compared and contrasted North Carolina, Egypt and Mexico.

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[click here.](#)

► **A new electronic newsletter** focusing on teaching Chinese language is now available through the Asia Society, a non-partisan, non-profit education agency in New York. "Chinese Language in the Schools" provides resources and information about expanding Chinese language opportunities in schools. To read the first issue... [click here.](#) To subscribe, click the red-colored link in the upper left hand corner of newsletter.



Business Perspective

"We need to have globally savvy graduates to be competitive...my RTP managers ask potential employees: 'Can you work with another culture?' 'Can you speak another language other than English?'"

**William Amelio, CEO
Lenovo Group**

Speaking to the Emerging Issues Forum held February 1, 2007, at NC State University in Raleigh

Business Profile

Lenovo, a global leader in the personal computer market, employs nearly 20,000 people in 60 different countries. Its Research Triangle Park executive headquarters employs approximately 1,600 people.



Progress Report: North Carolina in the World

Higher Ed K-12 Relationships

Cultural Correspondents is an innovative way of partnering university study abroad students with K-8 classrooms in North Carolina. The Center for International Understanding is launching this program that combines a valuable service-learning experience for college students and firsthand cultural learning experiences for K-8 students. Elementary and middle school students will learn about another country's cultures, climate, economy, geography, etc. The first group of NC State University students, who will be studying in Germany, China, Australia, and Spain, will use web-based conferencing technology to work with teachers and students from Johnson Street Global Studies K-8 Extended Year Magnet School in High Point. For more information... [click here.](#)

World Languages

Ashley IB Elementary Magnet School in Winston-Salem has received a \$157,000 federal grant to continue its five-year-old dual-immersion Spanish language program. Under the leadership of Foreign Language Coordinator Leslie Baldwin, Ashley's Spanish language program has been awarded the three-year Federal Language Arts Program grant to pay for instructional materials, teacher training, and planning for expansion of the dual-immersion program to the middle grades. Students in this program -- 50 percent Spanish speakers and 50 percent non-Spanish speakers -- learn the curriculum in both languages. Ashley students can start the dual-immersion program in kindergarten. To read a press release...[click here.](#)



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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