



# Asheville-Buncombe Education Coalition

# ASSIGNMENT GRADUATION

## Fall 2007 Update

### **A Message from our Chairman**

Because you are a valued supporter of the Asheville Buncombe Education Coalition and of our mission to eliminate the achievement gap and increase graduation rates, we want to let you know about some important developments in our work:

#### **Strategic Planning**

As the Education Coalition passes its six-year mark, we are undergoing a review to identify what approaches will be most effective in helping meet our long-term mission of increasing the graduation rate and reducing the minority achievement gap. This process is spearheaded by a strong Leadership Team representing our stakeholders with the assistance of Chrysalis Consulting.

#### **Thank You Debbie Mowrey**



Debbie Mowrey has resigned from the coalition effective September 14th to take a position with NASA based in Houston. We are very happy for her and thankful for her leadership and direction of the Coalition. We are having a reception for her on October 8th at the Coalition Office on Eagle Street at 5:00 pm.

#### **Interim Executive Director: Kathi Ballard**



The ABEC is in excellent hands with the former director of Asheville City Schools Foundation. As a long-time board member of the Coalition, Kathi will provide important leadership during this interim period as we maintain our current services, complete the strategic planning process, and undertake the search for our next Executive Director.

#### **Welcome Governing Board Members**

We are pleased to welcome to our Governing Board former N.C. Rep. Wilma Sherrill; Larry McCollum of Buncombe County Schools; Richard Bowman, retired director of the California DMV; and Curtis Canty with the N.C. ABC Board. Returning to the ABEC Board are Virgil Smith (chair), John Legerton (vice chair), Carolyn Wallace, and Kim McGuire (secretary).

#### **Our Expanded Development Council**

ABEC veteran Charlie Glazener is leading our Development Council with the help of LaVoy Spooner of AT&T, Rebekkah Lowe of Wachovia, Alfred Whitesides Jr. of Mountain First Bank, Barry Kampe of First Citizens Bank, and Lisa Gaye Hall of Asheville City Schools Foundation.

As you can see, this fall will be busy as we undertake a search for an executive director to lead our re-tooled organization. Meanwhile, we have begun to unite close to 400 students with tutors and mentors as our current program in Asheville and Buncombe continues on course. Please know that the ABEC is working hard to strengthen our work with the schools, our youth-serving nonprofits, and the community to make sure more local public school students graduate and have successful lives.

We will update you in coming months as we evolve to meet the needs of local youth. We need your continued involvement to help ABEC fulfill its mission and to help create bright leaders for our community's future (so be sure to read the back of this document for two things you can do today).

Respectfully,

*Virgil L. Smith*

Virgil Smith  
ABEC Governing Board Chair





Asheville Buncombe Education Coalition  
PO Box 1265  
Asheville NC 28802

**Change a child's life. Become a Mentor. Become a Tutor. Call 252-5936 to get involved.**

## Two Ways You Can Help Today

### The Playground Classic



Last year's proud winners:  
Bank of Asheville

Mark your calendar: ~~November 2nd~~ ~~the Playground Classic.~~ Our annual fundraiser is unlike anything you've ever been to and for just \$250 you can field your own team of 4 in this epic competition.

(think embarrassing and hysterical). Teams compete (much like a golf tournament) for bragging rights and to secure an awesome traveling trophy designed by Steebo. Each year teams leave the event talking about next year and all of the strategies they will employ. For pictures from last year and to register a team: [www.abeducationcoalition.org](http://www.abeducationcoalition.org) - News and Events.

Here is what you can expect: Each of our member agencies has designed either a physical or mental challenge

### The kids need YOU... become a Tutor or Mentor

Can you commit 1-2 hours a week - for 7-8 months? We serve children both in school and in after school programs in the city and county. We will work with you to make it possible for you to help a child.



Go to our website [www.abeducationcoalition.org](http://www.abeducationcoalition.org), and click on *How Can I Help* and then on *Tutors and Mentors*.

There you will find a copy of the application and instructions. Or call Elisabeth at 252-5936 she can answer your questions about this process.

## Start the School Year Right



Vicki Holcomb and Barbara Parker of Buncombe County Schools offer tips on homework help for all ages.

We hosted our first **Start the School Year Right** event for families. Over 20 families attended. The adults took workshops on bullying, advocating for your child at school, homework help, and financial planning. A big THANKS to **United Way Day of Caring** volunteers from Mission Hospital and Children First/Americorps team for their help.

## Our Mission

The Education Coalition is a community-wide collaboration to provide mentoring, tutoring, and support services that will eliminate achievement gaps and help all Asheville City and Buncombe County public school students graduate.

### Our Member Agencies

AB Technical Community College  
Asheville City Schools Foundation  
Asheville Parks and Recreation  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC  
Buncombe County Schools Foundation  
Children First  
Delta House Life Development of Asheville, Inc.  
Hillcrest Enrichment  
Mars Hill College  
One Youth At A Time  
Partners Unlimited  
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Bunc. County  
Success Through Education and Prevention (STEP)  
The Links, Inc.  
University of NC Asheville  
Warren Wilson College  
Western Carolina University  
YMCA of WNC  
YWCA of Asheville

### Contact Staff

**Kathi Ballard, Interim Executive Director**  
236-1228 [kballardabec@bellsouth.net](mailto:kballardabec@bellsouth.net)  
**Kiki Alimonos, Program Coordinator**  
236-2042 [kalimonosabec@bellsouth.net](mailto:kalimonosabec@bellsouth.net)  
**Elisabeth Bocklet, Marketing Coordinator**  
252-5936 [ebockletabec@bellsouth.net](mailto:ebockletabec@bellsouth.net)  
**Stephanie Twitty, Administrative Assistant**  
236-5995 [stwittyabec@bellsouth.net](mailto:stwittyabec@bellsouth.net)

Fax: 236-2066 [www.abeducationcoalition.org](http://www.abeducationcoalition.org)