

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Linda Powell-Jones
(919) 832-3000, ext. 212
Linda.Powell@ncae.org

**North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) Presents Public Schools First NC
With the 2014 Friend of Education Award**

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** A photograph of a representatives from the organization accompanies this press release.*

HICKORY, NC – Public Schools First NC, a statewide, non-partisan organization focused solely on public education issues, is the recipient of the 2014 NCAE Friend of Education Award. The organization, which is located in Raleigh, is committed to supporting public schools through information, education and engagement.

Public Schools First NC believes that public schools are the foundation of the American dream and the core of America's strength. It also believes that effective public schools benefit everyone – from the students they serve to the businesses that recruit well-educated graduates to the taxpayers who benefit when well-prepared students graduate to give back to the community.

The goal of the organization is to educate and inform citizens about critical issues that impact North Carolina's schools, teachers, and students, and to engage all stakeholders in supporting a quality public education system. Some of those critical issues include vouchers, charter schools, privatization, adequate and equitable funding, and dropout prevention.

The Friend of Education Award is given annually to a person or group that positively impacts public education and educators. This year's award honors the partnership that Public Schools First NC has formed with NCAE in the fight to save public education.

The award was presented to Page McCullough, outreach director for Public Schools First NC, on Saturday, March 22, during the third business session of the NCAE Convention, held at the Hickory Convention Center. Educators from across the state who are members of NCAE attend this annual business meeting.

NCAE is the state's largest education organization, representing active, retired and student members.

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