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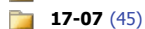
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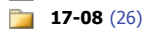
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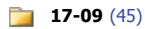

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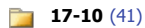
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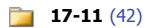
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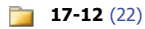
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For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's NC Teaching Fellows, Laboratory Schools, and Community Colleges

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Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 5:09 PM



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 11, 2017

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NC Teaching Fellows, Laboratory Schools, and Community Colleges

Charlotte, NC – On Tuesday, members of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee heard from leaders of several state education programs. Representatives from North Carolina's new laboratory schools, Teaching Fellows Program, and the state's community college system provided the members with updates concerning their programs. The laboratory schools program connects universities with low-performing schools, ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade. The program was developed to improve student performance in local school administrative units by providing an enhanced education program for students. Laboratory schools are expected to provide an opportunity for research, demonstration, student support, and expansion of the teaching experience and evaluation regarding management, teaching, and learning. Nine universities are expected to participate, but the following eight have been identified: East Carolina University, Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Pembroke, UNC-Charlotte, and NC Central University. East Carolina and Western Carolina have already started operating. The others are expected to open in 2019. UNC-Charlotte plans to partner with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to open a K-5 laboratory school.

The NC Teaching Fellows Program was reinstated after a decision was made to cut its funding in 2011. The purpose of the NC Teaching Fellows Program is to recruit, prepare, equip, and produce highly-qualified educators in the STEM and special education fields. The following five universities have been chosen to participate in the program: Elon University, NC State, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Meredith College. These universities were selected based on factors, such as teacher effectiveness, internship experiences, and passage rates for teacher licensure exams.


"This is a great opportunity to ensure that the students within our academic community excel. I am pleased to see efforts being constructed through UNC-Charlotte. The Teaching Fellows Program reinstatement helps produce more qualified teachers and provides opportunities for aspiring teachers in our state. Some committee members voiced their concerns about HBCUs being excluded from the program. I agree that HBCUs should not be forgotten," said Senator Waddell.

The future plan for community colleges throughout the State was also discussed at the committee meeting. The President of the North Carolina Community College System described the steps that have been taken to develop a strategic plan that would better address the concerns of both businesses and students. The plan is based on student interest and access, student progress and success, workforce and

economic impact, and system effectiveness.

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