

### **Caroline Massengill**

Caroline Massengill spent 32 years in the Wake County Public School System, beginning as a classroom teacher and moving through the ranks where she became a principal, Senior Director of Magnet Programs, and, finally, Special Assistant to the Superintendent on Year-Round Education. During Caroline's tenure, she was named Wake County Principal of the Year (1996) and was one of seven finalists for NC Principal of the Year. While heading the Magnet Schools Program, three Wake County schools were recognized as the top magnet schools in the United States. In addition, Caroline served as the principal for Wake County's first year-round school. A former president of Magnet Schools of America, Caroline currently works with schools across the United States as they implement magnet school programs. She is a graduate of both St. Andrews Presbyterian College and Meredith College.

### **Bill McNeal**

Bill McNeal became executive director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) on July 1, 2006, after retiring June 30 from his post as Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System. In his current role, he leads the membership association that serves over 6000 school administrators from across North Carolina. Bill McNeal is a rarity in public education. He is a "home-grown" superintendent who experienced the entire 30-year history of the consolidated Wake County Public School System, from the classroom to the boardroom. Bill has received many awards and honors for his service to public schools. The American Association of School Administrators named him 2004 National Superintendent of the Year, making him the first North Carolina nominee to win the prestigious honor. Bill is one of seven national keynote speakers for the International Center for Leadership in Education and in 2009 co-authored *A School District's Journey to Excellence: Lessons from Business and Education* with Tom Oxholm.

### **Amy Hawn Nelson**

Amy Hawn Nelson attended Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools K-12th grade and remains committed to diverse schools in America's urban centers. Her research interests include teacher effectiveness, student achievement, and the racial and socioeconomic composition of schools as well as the perceptions of desegregated schooling from the graduates of such schools. She has degrees in Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies, and Africana Studies from North Carolina State University as well as a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Johns Hopkins University. Amy is currently a doctoral candidate in Urban Education at UNC-Charlotte and is also two months from finishing a Masters degree in School Administration. Amy has been a classroom teacher in the Bronx, Baltimore, Caracas (Venezuela), and Charlotte. Amy is a Teach For America alumna and serves as a Learning Team Leader for the Charlotte Corps. She is currently an Elementary School Administrator in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

### **Charlotte Clark Turpin**

Charlotte Clark Turpin is a native of Bayboro, NC, where she completed her public school education in the Pamlico County School System. She spent 31 years as a public school educator in Wake, Pamlico, Franklin and New Hanover Counties, in addition to serving president of WakeNCAE (NC Association of Educators). Charlotte is currently President of the Harriet B. Webster Task Force for Student Success. The Task Force provides strategies to help improve student achievement and encourage parents to advocate and get involved in the education of their children, offering tutoring, mentoring, student and parent workshops, and a Student Ambassador program for future student leaders. In addition, the Task Force partners with the Wake County Public Schools to service long term suspended students. Charlotte is a graduate of St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, NC, is certified as Academically Gifted Educator, and is a National Geographic Teacher Consultant with the North Carolina Geographic Alliance.



## *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*

Great Schools In Wake Forum  
*Every Child, Our Child*

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**March 20, 2010**

McKimmon Center at NCSU, Raleigh, NC

# Won't You Be My Neighbor?

## Great Schools In Wake Forum

**Registration & Coffee** 8:00 a.m.

**Introduction and Overview** 8:30 a.m.

Forum Overview Pete Eberhart

Welcome/Session I Overview Yevonne Brannon

**SESSION I A Foundation of Excellence in Wake County** 9 a.m.

North Carolina's History of Educational Advancement Benita Jones

The History of Choice in Wake County Caroline Massengill

Avoiding Barriers to Success: A View of Urban Schools Gerald Grant

*10 minute BREAK*

**SESSION II Consequences of High Poverty Schools** 10:30 a.m.

Session II Overview Beverley Clark

Why It Matters Who Your Classmates Are:  
A National Perspective Richard Kahlenberg

Why High Poverty Schools Must be Avoided:  
Evidence from North Carolina Amy Hawn Nelson

*5 minute BREAK*

**SESSION III Panel Discussion** 11:30 a.m.

**Panel Participants:** Gerald Grant Caroline Massengill  
Benita Jones Amy Hawn Nelson  
Richard Kahlenberg Charlotte Turpin

**SESSION IV Putting It All Together** 12:15 p.m.

Maintaining Successful Schools Bill McNeal

*Break for Lunch (on your own until 1:30 p.m.)*

**SESSION V Where Do We Go from Here?** 1:30 p.m.

**Grassroots organizing in action!** Join us for small group discussions and find out ways you can get involved in advocating for Great Schools In Wake!

## Speaker Bios

### Pete Eberhart

Pete Eberhart is a Raleigh native and graduate of Fred Olds and Broughton schools. While Pete was superintendent of the Greensboro City Schools the dropout rate was reduced by 40%, SAT scores increased to a 10-year high, and the district began a nationally acclaimed magnet school program. He was recognized as Educator of the Year by the City of Greensboro and was awarded the Peacemaker of the Year by the Carolina Peacemaker Newspaper. During his tenure as superintendent of the Montgomery, Alabama, City-County School System, Pete oversaw an expansion of the magnet school program, student achievement scores increased each year after nine years of decline, and the school system's dropout rate fell below the state average. He also worked for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to help low performing school districts in six counties. Pete's undergraduate degree is from Wake Forest University, and he holds Masters and Doctorate degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### Gerald Grant

Gerald Grant is The Hannah Hammond Professor of Education and Sociology Emeritus at Syracuse University. Grant's latest book is *Hope and Despair in the American City* (2009). His other major books include: Gerald Grant and David Riesman, *The Perpetual Dream: Reform and Experiment in the American College* (1978); Gerald Grant and Associates, *On Competence* (1979); *The World We Created at Hamilton High* (1988), named one of the eight best books of the year by the American School Board Journal, and Gerald Grant and Christine Murray, *Teaching in America: The Slow Revolution* (Harvard, 1999), winner of the Virginia and Warren Stone Prize awarded annually by Harvard University Press for an outstanding book on education and society, and of the 2000 American Educational Studies Association Critics' Choice Award. Grant earned a doctorate in the sociology of education at Harvard University, a master's at Columbia University and his undergraduate degree at John Carroll University.

### Benita N. Jones

Benita N. Jones joined the UNC Center for Civil Rights in August 2009 as its education law fellow. Benita formerly was an associate with Klein Hornig LLP in Washington, D.C., where her practice included the representation of several housing authorities and nonprofit developers in complex affordable housing transactions. Benita received her law degree from Georgetown University, where she was a Dean's Scholar and recipient of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Student Advocacy Award. During law school, Benita was a student attorney in Georgetown's Harrison Institute for Public Law, where she taught finance and entrepreneurship workshops and provided legal counsel to housing cooperatives. She received her B.A., magna cum laude, from Yale University, where she directed a nonprofit partnering Yale students with underserved New Haven public school students for free music lessons. Benita is a graduate of the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics and attended Ligon Middle and Enloe High School.

### Richard Kahlenberg

Richard D. Kahlenberg is a Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation, and the author of *All Together Now: Creating Middle Class Schools through Public School Choice* (Brookings Institution Press, 2001). One author called him "the intellectual father of the economic integration movement." Richard is also the author of *Tough Liberal: Albert Shanker and the Battles Over Schools, Unions, Race and Democracy* (Columbia University Press, 2007); *The Remedy: Class, Race, and Affirmative Action* (Basic Books, 1996); and *Broken Contract: A Memoir of Harvard Law School* (Hill & Wang/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992) and the editor of five Century Foundation books on education. His articles on education have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the New Republic, and he has discussed education on ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX, C-SPAN, MSNBC, and NPR. Previously, he was a visiting associate professor of constitutional law at George Washington University, and a legislative assistant to Senator Charles S. Robb (D-VA). He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.