

### **Greetings Wake PTA Council Forum Members,**

On Saturday, February 5, 2011, the Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Committee and School/Community Helping Hands Mentoring Program presented a special summit that focused on empowering parents, students and community members.

The information and speakers were wonderful. Special appreciation to Teresa Cunningham-Brown, Maurice Moore, Jay Thomas, Derrick Byrd, Donna Hargens, Sheila Bennet and others who helped plan this event.

As a RACG committee member, I attended the event with my camcorder and compiled the highlights for you in two parts that includes videos of our key note speaker, Marvin Pittman.

Please share the articles below with your groups. Our committee hopes to have some of the notes available soon on the WCPSS Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps web site: [www.wcpss.net/isd/racg](http://www.wcpss.net/isd/racg)

with much appreciation for all you do for the children and families of Wake County ,  
Liza Weidle, RACG committee member

### **Wake Schools (NC) holds Achievement Summit (Part I)**

On February 5, the Wake Public School System held a "Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Summit" that focused on empowering parents, students, and community members. Chief Academic Officer Donna Hargens led the discussion by saying there is not a single magical answer to knowing how to close the achievement gap. There are many things that need to be addressed including consistency, high expectations for all children, collaboration/accountability and focused interventions.

Key note speaker, Marvin Pittman gave a review of the State Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps recommendations. Pittman said that **time is of the essence to create a culture of high achievement for all children**. Complete article with link to video available at this link: [www.examiner.com/parenting-tweens-in-national/wake-schools-nc-holds-achievement-summit-part-i](http://www.examiner.com/parenting-tweens-in-national/wake-schools-nc-holds-achievement-summit-part-i)

Direct link to the video featuring Marvin Pittman summarizing five recommendations is at this link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmKnKh7X3ss](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmKnKh7X3ss)

### **Empowering parents (Part II on Wake Schools Achievement Summit )**

Empowering parents was the foundation of the Wake Schools (NC) Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps summit held on Feb. 5. Marvin Pittman, education consultant and key note speaker, recommended questions\* parents should ask the schools.

Pittman expands on the second question, "On what grade level is my child being taught." Pittman concluded his discussion by drawing an analogy of educators standing on a river bank waving to children in the river who appear to be waving back. Pittman says, "**The children are in the river drowning and we are on the banks waving. It's time to help the children in Wake County .**" Complete article available here:

[www.examiner.com/parenting-tweens-in-national/empowering-parents-part-ii-on-wake-schools-achievement-summit](http://www.examiner.com/parenting-tweens-in-national/empowering-parents-part-ii-on-wake-schools-achievement-summit)

Direct link to the you tube video featuring Marvin Pittman expanding on questions parents should ask the schools: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBJQspOXCrQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBJQspOXCrQ)

For more on the WCPSS Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps committee, visit [www.wcpss.net/isd/racg](http://www.wcpss.net/isd/racg)