



## 2011-2012 In-state Study Visit Opportunities at Learning Laboratory Initiative Schools

**History of Learning Laboratory Initiative Schools:** Funded in 2007 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the development of secondary schools that demonstrate new models of school design and professional development that succeed with all students, the NCNSP Learning Laboratory Initiative (LLI) has advanced to the point that two redesigned high schools and two early colleges are poised to host formal residencies in 2011-12. Through rigorous application of the North Carolina New Schools Project (NCNSP) Design Principles, these schools have demonstrated success in improving student achievement, eliminating dropouts and increasing the job satisfaction of teachers.

### **Who Can Attend an LLI Study Visit:**

North Carolina teachers, administrators and others are invited to visit classrooms, talk with students and staff, network with peers and experience unique school cultures where all adults collaborate to ensure that all students successfully graduate prepared for college, careers and life.

### **Structure of Study Visits:**

Each study visit is organized to offer the following opportunities:

- 1) Demonstrate Redefined Professionalism, including the rounds model of on-going school-based staff development;
- 2) Demonstrate the Common Instructional Framework, interdisciplinary projects and community engagement within a context of inquiry and project-based learning, that support high levels of learning for all students;
- 3) Validate how restructured schools promote a school culture of teachers and students working together to improve college going-rates and success in life after high school;
- 4) Give participants the opportunity to analyze the school's history, culture, and classroom instruction to deepen their understanding of high school innovation and create a stronger network of schools yielding improved outcomes for students; and
- 5) Give participants structured time to plan implementation strategies and experience ongoing collaboration across the NCNSP network.

### **Fees:**

The cost of the two-day study visit is \$500 per person, which runs from 10:00 a.m. Day One to 2:00 p.m. Day Two and includes one night overnight accommodations, two lunches, one dinner, snacks and all materials. Two CEUs will be available to study visit participants. In addition to time spent in classroom observation, discussion and feedback sessions and professional development, study visit participants will be assigned reading assignments designed to facilitate a successful visit. It is recommended that schools consider sending a team of four consisting of the school principal, a teacher-leader and two other attendees at the school district's discretion.

*"The study visit to Caldwell County Early College was invaluable. The experience of the staff and the use of the NCNSP vocabulary as it relates to the Design Principles made the processes so much clearer for me. I got the most out of the discussion groups with the teachers. The opportunity to do a mock schedule and see how the school sets up the day for success was really good too. This experience gave me lots of ideas for future planning. Thanks for the opportunity."*

*- Dr. Helen Owen, principal*

## **Schools Offering Visits During the 2011-2012 Academic Year**

### **Caldwell Early College**

Now in its fifth year of implementation, Caldwell Early College High School (CECHS) boasts student performance exceeding 90 percent on the composite of state End of Course test scores with no dropouts, high attendance rates and practically no teacher attrition. This school exhibits a culture of high expectations for all teachers to be learners, raising standards for students' academic behaviors and deepening students' understanding of content. CECHS emphasizes the development of strong relationships among staff and students, as well as the cultivation of a college-ready focus so that each student will expect and appreciate high academic challenges and develop habits of mind and heart to build affective and cognitive resilience.

### **Cross Creek Early College**

On the state's End-of-Course measures, Cross Creek Early College High Schools' student performance composite is greater than 90 percent. CCECHS offers a strong AVID program. The school's counselor, principal, assistant principal and instructional liaison know all of the students and their personal situations and are able to use this knowledge to work with their staff to leverage high academic and behavioral expectations. The school staff is focused on building a foundation of high academic expectations, the consistent use of the Common Instructional Framework and critical feedback from application of the rounds model to improve instruction and learning.

### **Hillside New Tech High School**

Hillside NTHS is located on the campus of Hillside High School, a high school with a strong tradition in the Durham community. Hillside New Tech is unique among the LLI schools as a New Tech project-based learning model. The New Tech Consortium and NCNSP have merged the commonalities of their support systems and philosophies to provide a comprehensive program of professional development for the school's staff. The school's overall mission focuses on instructional methodology founded on the delivery of challenging content through project-based learning, technology and positive school culture.

### **Wayne School of Engineering**

Wayne School of Engineering (WSE) has made incredible progress in its four years of implementation, graduating the school's first senior class this year. As one of NCNSP's original STEM schools, the school has successfully established an autonomous culture on the campus of Goldsboro High School. WSE is a project-focused school with an engineering theme. The school exhibits highly engaging progressive pedagogy and a unique curriculum that includes: a community garden project developed through the Earth Science classes; a philosophy course for juniors and seniors; a composition course for freshmen that complements the regular English curriculum; and an issues-based science class for freshmen.

### **2011 – 2012 LLI Study Visits will be offered on the following dates:**

**Caldwell Early College High School:** Sept. 22-23, 2011; Oct. 26-27, 2011; Dec. 1-2, 2011; Jan. 25-26, 2012

**Cross Creek Early College High School:** Sept. 20-21, 2011; Oct. 4-5, 2011; Nov. 7-8, 2011; Jan. 18-19, 2012

**Hillside New Tech High School:** Sept. 27-28, 2011; Oct. 13-14, 2011; Nov. 9-10, 2011; Feb. 28-29, 2012

**Wayne School of Engineering:** Sept. 14-15, 2011; Oct. 11-12, 2011; Nov. 29-30, 2011; Feb. 1-2, 2012

**Registration for the 16 LLI Study Visits listed above will open August 1, 2011. If you have any questions, contact Isaac Lake at [ilake@newschoolsproject.org](mailto:ilake@newschoolsproject.org).**

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*"Study visits to schools outside our network were helpful, but visiting a school in our network has been so much more helpful. If we had had this example when we were getting started, we'd be so much further along now."  
- Angie Burleson, principal of Mayland Early College*