

NORTH
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INNOVATOR

News About Secondary School Innovation | newschoolsproject.org

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Welcome to INNOVATOR, a bimonthly update on secondary school change from the North Carolina New Schools Project. Our newsletter is designed to inform practitioners, policymakers, and friends of public education on innovation, research and success stories from secondary schools. Please feel free to [contact us](#), provide feedback and suggest article ideas.



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Worth Repeating ...

New Jersey's acting education commissioner Christopher D. Cerf had this to say in a recent *New York Times* story about sluggish growth nationally in education funding:

"The measure we should be looking at is how successful we are at graduating all of our students college- and career-ready. I think that is something that is not a function only of dollars, but much more importantly, of policies and practices that drive achievement."

Early college high school grads "ahead in life"



Caldwell Early College's first class celebrates their graduation last month.

themselves for the changing world that awaits them after high school.

Several new graduates from early colleges [offered](#) their thoughts on their "out-of-the-box" experience and how they feel the non-traditional approach to high school proved to be an opportunity for success.

[Read what they have to say.](#)

Many graduates finish with associate's degrees



Graduates at Wayne Early/Middle College head for commencement.

With families facing rising tuition costs, more than 1,300 students graduating from high school this spring in North Carolina have already made a big down payment on that expense by getting a head start on college by as much as two years.

These graduates, all from the state's pioneering early college high schools, are proving that schools that match high expectations with highly effective teaching and learning can help all students reach high levels of achievement and preparation for college and careers.

About half the 1,300-plus graduates this year earned an associate's degree or two years of transferrable college credit - giving them a significant head start on a four-year degree or career preparation. Unofficial data indicates that for the 40 schools with full cohorts of students graduating this year, more than 90 percent of the students who began as freshmen earned at least a high school diploma.

[Read more ...](#)

Grant aids NCNSP program for science teachers



With a \$25,000 award from the Biogen Idec Foundation, the North Carolina New Schools Project will offer a new science education program for North Carolina teachers.

The Modeling Biology Instruction program is an intensive 10-day summer program that will train teachers in new, more effective methods of teaching biology. Twenty teachers, reaching approximately 2,000 students, will be offered the opportunity to attend the program.

Biogen Idec Foundation's gift, announced late last month, is part of \$125,000 awarded to three North Carolina science programs reaching more than 2,400 students. Additional gifts were made to the Contemporary Science Center and Boston University School of Medicine's CityLab in Bertie County.

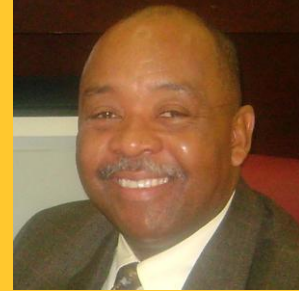
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More news about secondary school innovation ...

[College remediation costs nation \\$3.6 billion; more than \\$100 million in NC, report shows](#)

Better high school preparation will reduce that cost, says "Saving Now and Saving Later: How High

Meet an Innovator



Eric Hines, principal of Early/Middle College at N.C. A&T State University, sees himself as both coach and father figure at the all-male Greensboro school.

"Most of my students don't have an active father figure in their lives, so I treat my students like I do my own five children," Hines says. "I work very hard to truly build relationships with these young men, to teach them and keep them in school."

The school's location on a university campus also has a big impact on the students.

"It's hard for a kid to come here with the electric atmosphere of this university and not want to go to college," Hines says.

[Read more...](#)

School Reform Can Reduce the Nation's Wasted Remediation Dollars," from the Alliance for Excellent Education.

[President Obama speaks at Memphis graduation; his message carries beyond Tennessee](#)

"You created a new culture -- a culture that prizes hard work and discipline; a culture that shows every student here that they matter and that their teachers believe in them."

[Learn more about graduations from innovative high schools in North Carolina from local media](#)

From Asheville to Wilmington, innovative high schools were in the spotlight as many graduated their very first classes of students.

