

UPDATE FROM MISSY & DON



MARCH - 2008

LAURA LEWIS NAMED NEW VOICES KENAN FELLOW



Laura Lewis, one of Wake Public Schools top assistive technology specialists, has been named Kenan Fellow for 2008-10 in the first competition Fellowship Program in the Kenan Fellows Program and New Voices Foundation Partnership. For the first time in the history of this prestigious fellowship, a professional working with exceptional children has received this award. Fellowship candidates were reserved for assistive technology specialists in the New Voices School Partnership Region - Chatham, Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Durham, Orange, and Wake County school systems. Funds for the Fellowship included contributions from the John Rex Endowment, GlaxoSmithKline Community Partnerships Fund, the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Kenan Fellows Program, and New Voices Foundation. Laura will be mentored by Dr. Pat Porter and Dr. Karen Erickson.



LAUNCH EVENT SMASHING SUCCESS!

Over 125 guests of New Voices convened at the new Research Triangle Park Headquarters facility on March 11th to celebrate the unveiling of the New Voices Initiative.

New Voices Board Chair Prue Meehan, Vice Chair Missy Lohr, and CEO Don Stedman greeted guests and talked about New Voices. Host Rick Weddle, Research Triangle Foundation President welcomed all present in the wonderful new HQ on Davis Drive. The program included the debut of the terrific new video produced by FootPath Pictures of Raleigh. Copies are available on request.

Special thanks to event sponsors GlaxoSmithKline Community Partnerships, The Research Triangle Park, Fred and Nancy Hutchison Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation, Prue and Peter Meehan Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation, Cutting Edge Information, RBC Bank, American Party Rentals, Rachel Porter of Porter Communications, Christ United Methodist Church, and Mark Day Company, Catering and Event Management. Also many thanks to our wonderful event musicians Beth and Mandy Black.

PILOT PROJECT REPORT



On April 8th, at the New Voices Foundation Board meeting, Dr. Pat Porter will deliver the final report of the Assessment Program Pilot Project carried out by a team of specialists included staff from the Center for Development and Learning and the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at UNC-CH with a grant from New Voices Foundation. The purpose of the four month pilot project was to work out the clinical and business details necessary to mount a sustainable model Assessment Program for New Voices responsive to the needs of our school partners. The Report is a blueprint provided to the Board for the most effective program of assessment to begin as early as Fall of 08.



Advisor of the Month - KAREN ERICKSON



The Lead Special Educator for New Voices is our Advisor of the Month. And, for good reason. Karen has been the "go to" person on program and curriculum plans for New Voices from the beginning. Somehow, she has juggled her responsibilities as Director of the UNC-CH Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, nation-trotting workshop moderator, NEC researcher, and teacher/mentor for numerous UNC-CH students in Allied Health, with her role as active planner of New Voices School programs. If you have met Karen, you have met the ultimate advocate for children with severe communication challenges. What a terrific professional and true Seabiscuit!