



Walter Dalton
LT. GOVERNOR - STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

July 2010 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

2010 has proven to be a busy – and productive – year so far. As we look back on what was a challenging legislative short session, I want to provide an update on what I've been working on, both in Raleigh and around the state.

A Legislative Update: Passage of JOBS Commission's Recommended Legislation

As you may know, I chair the Joining Our Businesses and Schools (JOBS) Commission which seeks to tie early college programs directly to economic development and job creation in our state's communities. By uniting the goals of education and business, students are able to graduate with the tools they need to secure the jobs of the future and industry will benefit from having a prepared workforce.

Over the past months, members of the JOBS Commission have traveled to all seven of our state's economic development regions to identify key career clusters with the ultimate vision of developing pilot schools in each of those regions. Over 1,000 citizens attended these public meetings, where Commission members heard from educators, business leaders, and concerned individuals about how educators and industry can better work together to prepare students for the working world.

In May, the Commission submitted its initial report to the General Assembly for consideration during the legislative short session. I'm happy to report that the Commission was successful in getting its recommended legislation passed, as well as securing funding for pilot school planning.

A total of \$200,000 was approved for the planning of the "Grand Challenges/STEM" program in Wake County and the "Language and

Global Studies” program in Cumberland County. Additionally, the Commission’s recommendation to add State Board of Education members to the regional economic development commissions ([SB 1244](#)), to ask that the Education Cabinet to establish a STEM priority ([SB 1198](#)), and legislation to give early college programs charter-like flexibility in areas except personnel ([SB 1201](#)) all passed with unanimous, bipartisan support. The recommendation to allow career academy programs to function within an existing school without a separate school code ([H 1700](#)) was passed as a special provision in the budget. In response to the proposed “North Carolina Agriscience and Biotechnology School” ([SB 1199](#)), in Northeastern North Carolina, the General Assembly directed that a study be conducted by a group appointed by the State Board of Education Chair and JOBS Commission member, Dr. Bill Harrison, to do further planning with the intent to implement the school in 2011.

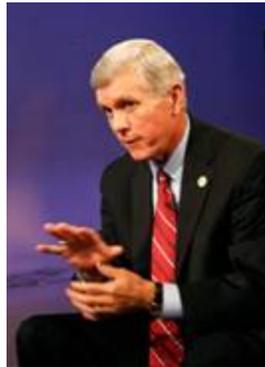
Moving forward, it is the intent of the JOBS Commission to develop successful early college models that can be replicated across the state, as well as continuing to work to prepare students for jobs in the 21st century economy.

Focusing the Media’s Spotlight on North Carolina’s Leadership in Education Policy

In the past few months, the media has turned its spotlight on the leadership of the JOBS Commission. Our state is truly serving as a model for the nation in its innovative approach to education. I invite you to click on these links to view two of these interviews and articles:

Carolina’s Business Review with Chris William, Segment: “Second in Command. First Rate Idea.”

<http://www.ltgov.state.nc.us/news/videos.aspx>



“Early college high schools state's best effort against drop-out problem” by Scott Mooneyham

<http://reflector.com/opinion/scott-mooneyham-early-college-high-schools-states-best-effort-against-drop-out-problem-39664>

Another Legislative Victory: A \$1 Million Appropriation to Help NC's Small Businesses

In this year's budget, the North Carolina Rural Development Center received an additional \$1 million for the Small Business Assistance Fund that I worked closely with the General Assembly to develop. The fund is administered by the Self-Help Credit Union and received \$500,000 last session from the Rural Center in conjunction with a \$5 million grant from the Golden Leaf Fund. The money given last year is being leveraged to provide roughly \$27.5 million in loans to North Carolina small business owners. This added contribution will certainly help to grow this fund to continue its work helping small businesses throughout the state.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and have been seriously hurt by the economic downturn. As part of a statewide listening tour held in conjunction with the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), I've had the opportunity to meet with and listen to hundreds of small business owners face to face in communities across North Carolina. In each of these small business roundtable discussions, access to capital is a critical issue that has been identified by small business owners. That's why we fought for this initiative and my hope is that this fund will provide additional relief to the small business community.

If you would like more information about these loans or to apply for a loan, please contact Self-Help Senior Loan Officer Karen O'Manskey at 919-956-4400 or by e-mail at Karen.omanskey@self-help.org.

NC's Logistics Task Force: Planning for Our State's Long Term Economic Growth

I currently serve as Chairman of the Governor's North Carolina Logistics Task Force. Our task is to develop a statewide plan for improvement of the transportation infrastructure in our state. Over the past few months, the Task Force has been traveling around the state and listening to local communities about their transportation needs. We've also heard about the innovative approaches that are being taken to move people, goods, and information more efficiently across our state. We will continue our tour during the next few months. We welcome input from all North Carolinians in identifying the highest priorities for ongoing infrastructure investment.

If my staff or I can be of help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our phone number is 919-733-7350 and our email is lt.gov@nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Lt. Governor Walter Dalton

Office of the Lt. Governor
20401 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0401

<http://www.lt.gov.state.nc.us>
Phone: (919) 733-7350
Email: lt.gov@nc.gov