

11th Annual



2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

October 30, 2024 | 5:00-8:00pm
Raleigh Convention Center

WakeEd Partnership's Stars of Education Gala

Stars of Education is WakeEd Partnership's annual awards gala dinner to celebrate and honor those who have made lasting contributions to public schools in Wake County. The event is WakeEd's largest fundraiser of the year, with proceeds going to support our mission and programs.

Since our founding in 1983, WakeEd Partnership has served in a unique position in the education space. We are an independent nonprofit committed to improving public education and advocating for excellent educational opportunities for all students. Through our business and community partners, we bring the best minds and ideas to the table to focus on excellence for Wake County students.



Stars of Education Gala 2023



The Awards

★ Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award

WakeEd has been presenting this award annually since 1990 to an individual who has made significant contributions to our community and shares qualities of the late Senator Vernon Malone who advocated tirelessly for every child to have equitable opportunities.

Representative Rosa Gill

Representative Rosa Gill has had a distinguished career dedicated to education and public service in Wake County, North Carolina. Gill, a native of Wake County, graduated from Shaw University with a major in Mathematics and pursued further studies at North Carolina State University, North Carolina Central University, and Duke University. Her journey began as a classroom teacher, where she also served as a student council advisor and coached girls' varsity tennis and track.



Gill's commitment to education led her to the Wake County Public School Board of Education, where she served for ten years, including terms as Chair and Vice Chair. During her tenure, she worked on policies to enhance academic success, integrate schools, address busing and student assignment issues, and secure a \$1 million school bond for facility expansion.

In 2009, Gill was appointed to the North Carolina House of Representatives, filling a vacant seat. She was then elected to the General Assembly for seven consecutive two-year terms, where she became known for her advocacy in education, women's and children's issues, healthcare access, and social justice. After a long and impactful career, 24 years as an educator and 24 years in politics, she decided not to seek reelection in 2024.

★ EMERGING STAR AWARD

This award is presented each year to one Wake County Public School student. It is designed to recognize one high-achieving 12th grade student (as of the 2024/25 school year) from Wake County Public Schools who has exhibited strength in both academics and community leadership. A \$5,000 scholarship is part of the award.

★ STAR AMONG US AWARD

This award is presented to recognize the brilliance of one K-12 educator each year from Wake County Public Schools who has a strong presence within their school communities and their communities-at-large. The award includes a \$5,000 prize.



★ Wake County Public School System Hall of Fame

The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Hall of Fame honors outstanding educators, alumni and community leaders who through their lives have either deeply impacted WCPSS or, as an alumnus, dramatically added to the quality of life in our city, state or nation. Each year honorees are inducted in the following categories: Arts, Athletics, Business, Community Service, Education and Entrepreneurship.

ARTS | Sara Maria Blanton

In the summer of 2019, Sara Maria Blanton, Founder and Executive Director of the Raleigh Music Collective, embarked on a mission driven by passion and community spirit. She personally funded the purchase of 12 violins and reached out to the local non-profit Refugee Hope Partners with a vision: to establish a free violin class for elementary students eager to learn. Drawing on her experience with El Sistema-inspired music programs since 2016, Blanton aimed to merge her private lessons studio with her work at Refugee Hope Partners into a unified El Sistema-inspired nonprofit.



The Raleigh Music Collective has seen significant growth since its inception, expanding from the initial 12 students to over 100 participants. The organization now offers a range of activities including private lessons, group classes, ensemble rehearsals, and camps. With a mission to foster integration and community through music education, the program is inclusive, providing lessons and group classes to both paying students and those requiring financial assistance. This approach not only enhances musical skills but also strengthens the diverse fabric of Raleigh's communities.

ATHLETICS | Mark Indermaur

Mark Indermaur, a volunteer chess coach and organizer, has taught chess and life skills to over a thousand Wake County Public School students since 2011. He opened his clubs to all students regardless of age or ability and quickly grew the Hunter Elementary School club to be the largest in the state with more than 150 students.



His club goals are simple - to have fun, learn, and play lots of chess - and yet, he has led teams from Hunter, Ligon Middle, and Enloe High Schools to twenty-three Triangle and four state championships and has been named North Carolina Chess Coach of the Year in 2016, 2020, and 2023. In 2019, Indermaur and his wife Meredith, parents of 6 WCPSS alumni, founded the non-profit Indermaur Chess Foundation to help more North Carolina schools, libraries, and community organizations start chess programs. Since then they have supported over 110 chess clubs in 44 North Carolina counties, including 17 in Wake County Public Schools.



BUSINESS | Brad Wilson

Brad Wilson has a distinguished 40-year career in law, government service, and health care. Prior to becoming general counsel to Governor James B. Hunt Jr. in 1992, he practiced law in Lenoir for 14 years. During his 22-year career at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, Wilson held a variety of senior executive roles, including president and CEO from 2010 until his retirement in 2017. Wilson served as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education created by Governor Roy Cooper in 2017 to develop recommendations for the state to follow in meeting the Leandro Supreme Court rulings. This year Wilson joined the North Carolina Museum of History and Division of State History Museums as interim director.



Throughout his career, Wilson has served on numerous public, private, and charitable boards and commissions, including the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, the North Carolina Museum of History Foundation, and the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation. Wilson's experience on the North Carolina Museum of History Foundation board provides him with a deep knowledge of current initiatives related to the Division of State History Museums, and he will ensure that those initiatives continue to move forward during the search for a permanent director. Wilson earned a BA in history from Appalachian State University, a JD from Wake Forest University School of Law, and an MA from Duke University.

COMMUNITY SERVICE | Barb Walsh

Barb Walsh is the dedicated Executive Director of the Fentanyl Victims Network of North Carolina, a grassroots action-oriented nonprofit she founded on the first anniversary of her daughter's tragic death from fentanyl exposure through a water bottle. Since this heartbreaking event, Barb has been unwavering in her pursuit of safety, education, justice, advocacy, and support for fentanyl fatality victims in North Carolina. She actively travels across the state, hosting regional Family Summits, Fentvic Meetups, Annual Rallies, and providing courthouse moral support to families affected by fentanyl tragedies. Additionally, Barb is a strong advocate for the installation of life-saving naloxone in all North Carolina public schools.



Barb holds an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, bringing valuable expertise to her role. Her previous experience includes working with a non-profit lobbying group in Washington, D.C. and holding positions in government relations and corporate communications at a pharmaceutical company headquartered in Research Triangle Park. Besides her professional achievements, Barb has demonstrated remarkable resilience in her personal life. She has successfully raised four daughters while managing her own business and passionately fundraising for various charitable causes.



EDUCATION | Dr. Valencia Hicks-Harris

Dr. Valencia Hicks-Harris, Executive Director and Founder of Empower All, Inc., boasts over 13 years of expertise in elementary and STEM education. As one of the first two graduates in the Educational Equity Doctoral Program from North Carolina State University, she is a trailblazer, dedicated to diversifying the teacher pipeline, increasing representation in STEM, addressing the mental-health crisis facing our youth, and ensuring equitable education for all students.



She is an educator that has taught both elementary and STEM education for over 12 years in Wake County Public Schools. Her doctoral dissertation focused on Educational Equity. Her educational and career experiences have fueled her drive to diversify the teacher pipeline, push culturally relevant pedagogy as standard, increase the presence of students of color in STEM, and create an equitable education for all students.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP | Community Workforce Solutions

Community Workforce Solutions (CWS), originally established in 1964 as the Wake County Sheltered Workshop and Vocational Center, has a long history of providing vocational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Over the years, it has evolved and expanded its services, first rebranding as the Raleigh Vocational Center and later adopting its current name to reflect a broader mission. Today CWS is a dynamic non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities across Wake County and throughout North Carolina.



CWS maintains strong collaborative relationships with various businesses and organizations within the community, including public schools statewide. It also works closely with state agencies through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities to maximize the support and opportunities available to the individuals they serve. Through its comprehensive services and community partnerships, CWS continues to play a crucial role in empowering individuals with disabilities, fostering their independence, and enhancing their overall quality of life.



Sponsorship Levels

\$15,000 Level Minimum Donation _____

Presenting Sponsor (Exclusive) SOLD

- Logo incorporated into the Stars of Education brand and featured prominently in all event promotion
- Name recognition in press releases and media outreach regarding the event
- Logo featured prominently on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre-event and post-event emails
- Social media recognition as event “Presenting Sponsor” on X (Twitter), LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram before, during, and after the event
- Opportunity for live podium remarks to welcome guests and recognize honorees
- Two reserved tables for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join each table

\$12,500 Level Minimum Donation _____

Emerging Star Award (Exclusive)

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre and post-event emails
- \$5,000 scholarship for the recipient with the company name featured
- Social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram
- Opportunity for live podium remarks to introduce the Emerging Star Award recipient
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table

Star Among Us Award (Exclusive) SOLD

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre and post-event emails
- \$5,000 prize for the recipient with the company name featured
- Social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram
- Opportunity for live podium remarks to introduce the Star Among Us Award recipient
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table



\$7,500 Level Minimum Donation

Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award Sponsor (Exclusive)

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre and post-event emails
- Social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram
- Opportunity for live podium remarks to introduce the Friend of Education Award recipient
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table

\$5,000 Level Minimum Donation

Wake County Public School System Hall of Fame Sponsors (Multiple)

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre and post-event emails
- Group social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram
- Logo included in video presentation of Hall of Fame Class of 2024
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table

Reception Sponsor (Exclusive)

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre and post-event emails
- Group social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram
- Signage with logo throughout reception area
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table

Photobooth Sponsor (Exclusive)

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre and post-event emails
- Your company logo along with WakeEd Partnership featured on all photos taken for guests that will be printed and available online for social media.
- Group social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and Instagram
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table



\$3,000 Level Minimum Donation

Stars Among Us Sponsors (Multiple, up to six)

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre-event and post-event emails
- Group social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, and X
- Logo printed on Stars Among Us stationary on each dinner table
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table

Public School Champions (Multiple, can be listed in honor of an individual)

- Logo featured on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre-event and post-event emails
- Group social media recognition on Facebook, LinkedIn, and X
- Printed signage with company logos in reception and registration area
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table

\$1,500 Level Minimum Donation

Honor Roll (Table Sponsor) (Multiple)

- Name listed on the Stars of Education web page and printed program, as well as in pre-event and post-event emails
- One reserved table for six; plus, four educators or special guests will join your table



Sponsor Registration

Please complete and return this form to Kristen Farrell (kfarrell@wakeed.org).

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____

Payment Method (see instructions below): Credit Card _____ Check _____

I want to donate my table to the WakeEd community: Yes _____ No _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit Logo

Send organization logos and brand guidelines to Kristen Farrell (kfarrell@wakeed.org). Logo files should be high-quality, able to scale, with a transparent background. If available, please provide logos designed for both light and dark backgrounds. Brand guides or use guidelines are appreciated.

Payment

Visit <https://wakeed.kindful.com/?campaign=1100439> to submit your payment online using a credit or debit card. Checks can be mailed to Wake Education Partnership at 1816 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27604.

For questions about sponsorships, please contact:

Kristen Farrell
kfarrell@wakeed.org
919-821-0364

