13th Annual

Stars OF EDUCATION

Presented by Martin Marietta

2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, November 9, 2026
Raleigh Convention Center
5:00pm Reception | 6:00pm Dinner

WakeEd Partnership's Stars of Education Gala

Stars of Education is WakeEd Partnership's premier annual awards gala—an inspiring evening dedicated to celebrating the individuals, organizations, and champions who have made lasting contributions to public education in Wake County. As WakeEd's largest fundraising event of the year, Stars of Education not only honors excellence but also fuels the work that drives better outcomes for students, educators, and our entire community.

At the heart of everything we do, WakeEd Partnership unites businesses and the community in supporting all educators and students in Wake County Public Schools because strong public schools make a stronger Wake County. Our mission guides our efforts to ensure every student has access to an excellent public education and is empowered to reach their full potential.

For more than four decades, we have served in a unique, strategic role as an independent nonprofit committed to improving public education through thoughtful advocacy, meaningful partnerships, and impactful programs. Through our initiatives, WakeEd supports highly effective teachers, strengthens leadership, and connects community expertise to classroom needs.

By sponsoring Stars of Education, you demonstrate leadership and commitment to public education while gaining visibility with civic, business, and education leaders who share a belief in the transformative power of strong public schools. Together, we celebrate achievements and invest in our community.

Stars of Education Gala 2025

The Awards

★ Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award

Since its inception in 1990, this award has honored individuals who have made a profound impact on our community while exemplifying the values of the late Senator Vernon Malone. Recipients set the highest standard of dedication to public education—not just as supporters, but as true champions who use their voice and influence to drive meaningful change. They are passionate advocates for all students, inspiring others through their leadership and unwavering commitment to making a difference.

★ 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 the Wake County Public School System 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.

★ 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 2025/26 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.

Sponsorships Overview

Level	Amount	Seating	Recognition & Visibility	Stage Role	Distinctive Benefit
Presenting Sponsor (Exclusive) **-SOLD**	$15,000	Two tables (12 seats)	Premier logo and name placement across event promotions, website, program, signage, emails and press; top-tier social recognition	Welcome remarks	Logo incorporated into official event branding
Emerging Star Award Sponsor (Exclusive) **-SOLD**	$12,500	One table (5 seats, seated with student honoree & guests)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; social media recognition	Introduce student honoree	Funds $5,000 student scholarship
Star Among Us Award Sponsor (Exclusive) **-SOLD**	$12,500	One table (5 seats, seated with educator honoree & guests)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; social media recognition	Introduce educator honoree	Funds $5,000 educator prize
Vernon Malone Award Sponsor (Exclusive) **-SOLD**	$10,000	One table (6 seats)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; social media recognition	Introduce award honoree	Alignment with WakeEd's highest honor
Hall of Fame Award Sponsor	$7,500	One table (6 seats)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; group social media recognition	Recognition during induction	Logo included in Hall of Fame video
Reception Sponsor (Exclusive) **-SOLD**	$5,000	One table (6 seats)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; group social media recognition	–	Exclusive branded signage in the reception area
Photobooth Sponsor (Exclusive) **-SOLD**	$5,000	One table (6 seats)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; group social media recognition	–	Logo appears on all guest photobooth prints & digital images
Student Video Sponsor (Exclusive)	$5,000	One table (6 seats)	Logo placement across website, program, signage, emails and student-produced videos; group social media recognition	–	Supports student digital media programs
Stars Among Us Sponsor	$3,500	One table (6 seats)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; group social recognition	–	Logo displayed on event stationery mailed to educators
Public School Champion Sponsor	$3,000	One table (6 seats)	Logo placement across website, program, signage and emails; group social recognition	–	Contribution can be listed in honor of an individual
Honor Roll Sponsor	$2,000	One table (6 seats)	Logo recognition on website; name recognition across program, signage and emails	–	Entry-level, visible supporter
Individual Ticket	$200	Single seat	–	–	Event access including reception & dinner

Sponsorship Levels

All table sponsorships include seating for sponsor guests, and educators, students or special guests who WakeEd Partnership will seat at your table. Sponsors may choose to donate sponsor seats back to WakeEd Partnership to be distributed for use by Wake County Public School teachers in lieu sponsor attendance.

Signature and Award Sponsors

$15,000- Presenting Sponsor (Exclusive) -SOLD

- Two reserved tables for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo incorporated into the event brand and featured in all event promotions
- Logo featured prominently on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the two reserved tables
- Name recognition in press releases and media outreach regarding the event
- Social media recognition as event "Presenting Sponsor"
- Live podium remarks to welcome guests

$12,500- Emerging Star Award (Exclusive) -SOLD

- One reserved table for five (5) sponsor guests (student honoree and their guests will sit with you)
- $5,000 scholarship for the recipient with the company name featured
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- Social media recognition
- Live podium remarks to introduce the student award recipient

$12,500- Star Among Us Award (Exclusive) -SOLD

- One reserved table for five (5) sponsor guests (educator honoree and their guests will sit with you)
- $5,000 prize for the recipient with the company name featured
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- Social media recognition
- Live podium remarks to introduce the educator award recipient

$10,000- Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award Sponsor (Exclusive) -SOLD

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- Social media recognition
- Live podium remarks to introduce the Friend of Education Award recipient

$7,500- Wake County Public School System Hall of Fame Sponsors (Multiple, Exclusive Opportunity for Each Award: Arts, Athletics, Business, Community, Education)

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- Group social media recognition
- Logo included in Hall of Fame video presentation

Experience Sponsors

$5,000- Reception Sponsor (Exclusive) -SOLD

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- Group social media recognition
- Signage with logo throughout reception area

$5,000- Photobooth Sponsor (Exclusive) -SOLD

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- 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

$5,000- Student Video Sponsor (Exclusive)

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table, as well as on the award videos produced by students
- $1,000 contribution to Middle Creek High School's digital media program
- Group social media recognition

Community & Recognition Sponsors

$3,500- Stars Among Us Sponsors (Multiple, *up to six*)

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- Group social media recognition
- Logo printed on Stars Among Us stationery on each dinner table, which will be mailed to educators

$3,000- Public School Champion Sponsors (Multiple)

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page, emails, printed program and signage, and the reserved table
- Group social media recognition
- Contribution can be listed in honor of an individual

$2,000- Honor Roll Sponsors (Multiple)

- One reserved table for six (6) sponsor guests
- Logo featured on the event web page and the reserved table
- Name listed in emails, printed program and signage

Tickets

$200- Individual Ticket

- Each ticket include access to the event, including the cocktail reception and dinner program

New! Silent Auction

Celebrate Wake County's brightest educators by bidding in our new **Stars of Education Silent Auction**, where every item helps shine a little more light on the extraordinary work happening in our schools. Silent auction items will be available on the event website closer to the event date. Your generosity not only brings home exceptional experiences and gifts but also demonstrates your partnership in championing the future of our community's public schools. 100% of silent auction proceeds directly support WakeEd Partnership's mission to unite businesses and the community in supporting all educators and students in Wake County Public Schools. Together, we can champion excellence in teaching and strengthen learning across our community.

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
Checks can be mailed to Wake Education Partnership at 1816 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27604 noting "Stars of Education" in the memo. Online payment is available at: https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2026starsofeducationgala/event/soe26.

For questions about sponsorships, please contact:
Kristen Farrell
kfarrell@wakeed.org
919-821-0364