

Wake County SmartStart

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wake County SmartStart Announces New Board Members and Elected Officers

New members are united in their commitment to ensure Wake County's children, birth to age 5, are prepared for success in school and life

RALEIGH (December 13, 2010) – [Wake County SmartStart](http://www.wakesmartstart.org), a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that children, birth to 5, are prepared for success in school and in life, has elected six new community leaders to its Board of Directors. The Board has also elected its officers for 2010-2011.

The new members of the Wake County SmartStart Board are Lorie Barnes, executive director of the NC Association for the Education of Young Children (NCAEYC); Fiorella Horna-Guerra, program consultant, NC Farmworker Health Program; Mark Langford, chief financial officer, Triangle United Way; Camille Schaffer, accountant, Wake County Finance Department; Tyrone Williamson, accountant, City of Raleigh Finance Department; and, Heather Wong, pastor, Wesley Memorial Methodist Church.

The newly elected officers for 2010-2011 include: Q. Shanté Martin, chair, North Carolina Community College System; Dale Cousins, vice chair, Wake County Libraries; David Zonderman, Ph.D., past chair, North Carolina State University; Camille Schaffer, treasurer, Wake County Finance Department; and, Arvelis Byrd, secretary, Telamon Corp./Head Start.

"I am immensely excited about the opportunity to provide service through such an instrumental force in the community, such as Wake County SmartStart," stated Q. Shanté Martin, chair. "In leading Wake County SmartStart forward in these critical, pivotal times before us, the genuine passion, unique talent, and in-depth expertise of my fellow Board members and the staff, coupled with the strong foundation on which we stand, I know Wake County SmartStart will continue to be the engine driving the educational and life success of children birth to five."

For more information on Wake County SmartStart's new Board of Directors, please see below.

Lorie Barnes brings 25 years of early childhood education and management experience to NCAEYC's key leadership position. After graduating from East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in Child Development and Family Relations, she worked with young children with special needs and their families in Wilmington. Upon receiving her master's degree in Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support from UNC-Chapel Hill, Lorie became a faculty member in the Department of Early Childhood Education at Wake Technical Community College and most recently was the Director of Education at Marbles Kid's Museum in Raleigh.

Fiorella Horna-Guerra has worked in various public health positions for over 15 years. She received her bachelor's in Health Sciences from Hunter College in New York City and has served as a health educator, community activist, public health trainer, and healthcare consultant. She has been an advocate for social

change and representation of minority populations; particularly that of Hispanic/Latino community members. She is also a fellow for the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture and was recently selected to participate in the 2005 Town of Cary Institute of Government. Fiorella was born in Lima, Peru and grew up in New York City.

With over 20 years of experience in the public and private sector, **Mark Langford** is a savvy business professional interested in helping his community grow and flourish. He currently serves on the Finance Committee for Wake County SmartStart and the Metropolis of Atlanta Greek Orthodox Church. He has also served on the boards of the Executive Service Corps of the Greater Triangle and the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool. Mark earned his bachelor's degree in Accounting from UNC- Wilmington and a master's degree from the Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in North Carolina.

Camille Schaffer embraces nearly 30 years of experience in finance and is employed by the Wake County Finance Department. She has served on the Wake County SmartStart Board of Directors since 2004 as the County Manager designee and has been active on the Wake County SmartStart Finance Committee for the last 6 years. She will continue her work on the board as an elected member and will serve as the treasurer and the chair of the Finance Committee.

Tyrone Williamson has more than 20 years of experience in finance and accounting. He is currently an accountant and auditor for the City of Raleigh and is responsible for revenue projections and analysis on the City of Raleigh's key General Fund Revenues. Tyrone also works with the State Department of Revenue, Wake County and peer local government counterparts as they relate to developments with key local government revenues. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Heather Wong is active in her community and with her church. Heather was born and spent most of her childhood in North Carolina. Her affection for children began at an early age during the time she lived at the Methodist Home for Children where her parents served as house parents. Heather received a bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and her graduate degree from the Duke School of Divinity. Upon graduating from Duke, Heather was the associate pastor at Englewood UMC in Rocky Mount. She then moved to Granville County and was the sole pastor at Banks UMC. Most recently she has worked at Fairmont UMC as the Director of Children and Youth Ministries which included running the church's nursery,

For more information, call 919-851-9550 or visit Wake County SmartStart online at www.wakesmartstart.org. For additional updates, news and information, visit our frequently updated Facebook page by [clicking here](#).

[About Wake County SmartStart](#)

Organized in 1996, Wake County SmartStart is committed to ensuring every child in Wake County is prepared to enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Wake County SmartStart works to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care settings, identify and connect children to early intervention and other preventive health services and support families and early childhood educators. The organization also promotes, supports, and advocates for the needs of young children living in Wake County. To achieve its mission, Wake County SmartStart partners with national, state, and local agencies, and other nonprofits that serve Wake County children, ages birth to five, and their families through vital human service programs. More information on Wake County SmartStart's allocation of state funds and its activities with local partner agencies can be found at www.wakesmartstart.org.

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