

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
by Dr. Barry Harding
Public Schools of Robeson County



Getting an education used to be simple. You awoke, went to school, listened to the teacher, went home and did homework followed by the inevitable tests and graduated eventually. It was between you and the teacher if you received an education. Any meeting with the principal probably wasn't a happy experience. Parent involvement was to make sure you went to school.

Today, education, like fish, has become more involved. The world now requires a well-rounded education to be a productive citizen and that requires the input of everyone who has anything to offer that child to help him or her reach their full potential.

The parent is still most important. Beyond encouraging school attendance, the parent should instill a love of learning in the child as well as an understanding of the importance of a good education. That is

sometimes difficult if the parents themselves have been unable to complete their own education. Still, it's vital that they do that - if only by pointing out how much they themselves missed. Another thing that parents can and must do is to impress on their children the importance of respecting their teachers and classmates. While I mention parents, I should also include other family members.

Churches can contribute by providing mentors or tutors. They also can demonstrate an interest in education by making a special effort to recognize young members of the congregation during the service for

special academic accomplishments.

Civic clubs or other groups can also become involved through tutoring or mentoring activities. By showing an interest in the students, members can help the students re-

alize how important they consider the children's education.

Industries often allow employees to come to classes to explain or demonstrate some of their products or services. In this way, they're often able to impart in the students an understanding of the type of training they might need to enter such an industry or business.

Individuals visit schools to talk about their travels or experiences which they've had and which the students are then able to compare with things they've learned from their textbooks. Since many students have not traveled too much, hearing such stories can help broaden their horizons.

There are, I'm certain, many people with information for our students who have never thought about volunteering. Know that you don't have to restrict yourself to a school where you have a child or a grandchild. You don't have to have any children in school at all. If you have had experience or knowledge you'd like to share, you should know that there are classes that would like to have you come and share. Simply contact the principal of a school and let your intentions be known. With the help of all the people and entities I've mentioned in this article, the quality of education we provide the children

A Brave Perspective

By Benjamin Howie

To all of my new readers, let me begin by saying hello. My name is Benjamin Howie and I am from the small town of Thomasville North Carolina. I came to Pembroke in 1998 for college, and slowly but surely look to graduate with a degree in public administration within the next 2 years.

Growing up with an older brother and an older sister I learned a thing or two by watching their mistakes, and tried hard not to make the same ones. The thing about government is that we as the general population and average citizens can sit back and watch, learning once again from others mistakes.

Now while our government does work hard, there are always mistakes. Even more importantly there is always more that can be done. This is what drew me into the political science, public administration field of study. I always thought that I had

of Robeson County will be greatly enhanced. The key, though, is for that help to be forthcoming. If it isn't, then our children aren't getting everything they'll need to compete in the world.

some good ideas but just needed a way to voice them.

As a rising junior, it became time for me to begin my internship. So for the next 16 weeks I will be writing an article each week on various topics in our local, state, and national government. I will try to do so with complete neutrality. There are many issues, which concern you and I alike. Therefore, should you have any concerns please feel free to write to the Carolina Indian Voice Care of Benjamin Howie 306 Normal St. Pembroke NC, 28372 I look forward to the next several weeks, and hope that I bring to all of

my readers the facts about issues, which shape and control our lives. Because the bottom line is, we can control the facts.



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