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

As we prepare to start another school year, the Public Schools of Robeson County has undertaken another regimen intended to concentrate more effort than ever on improving the reading ability of our students. It will be referred to as "Every Teacher is a Teacher of Reading" and will help to train teachers in how to go about impressing upon students the importance of not only being able to read but, also, to comprehend what they are reading.

My vision is to make certain that all of our students are able to read at an acceptable level by the time they graduate from high school. To work towards that goal, we will utilize the ability of 16 people in our system specially trained to work with all of our teachers to help them realize that, regardless of the subject they are teaching, the ability of the student to read well is vital to the student's success in that course. Reading is the essential skill and foundation for all other subjects. 60-70% of math, 70-80% of science, and 80-90% of social studies, writing and language arts is attributable to reading. It's also a necessary skill for critical thinking, problem solving, and other higher order skills.

According to research, how much reading students do has a definite effect on how they perform in school. That research shows that students scoring in the top 5% read 144 times more than students in the bottom 5%. It also shows that nationally, on average, students only read 7 minutes a day and only 3 minutes in high school. Needless to say, doing some-thing about that is what it will take to make for literate adults. That something is to require 60 minutes of in-school reading practice for all stu-dents in grades 1-12 and 30 minutes in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Beyond simply reading, as I said earlier, com-prehension of what is being read is a must. Reading may be the tool for all learning, but without understanding what was read, it would be very difficult to accomplish another value of reading and that is the ability to transfer what the student has read to another area of learning or to another indi-

Monday and Tuesday of this week teachers met with the 16 trainers I referred to to receive direction in this regimen. Having received that, all of our schools must now make arrangements to assure that every teacher will receive a minimum of 10 hours of training in how best to improve reading achievements by our students. That training will include using the best practice for reading. Some examples of that would be to have a variety of interesting reading materials in the classroom and to provide opportunities for reading aloud from those materials. For reluctant readers, recorded books could be used and opportunities for silent reading followed by discussion might be another way teachers can teach reading and comprehension. Participation in the Accelerated Reading Program is still another practice that will encourage

progress in reading.
Regardless of the subject being taught, the ability to read and comprehend is a must for the student to be able to learn the subject matter. Thus it is that, not only is it true that "Every Teacher is a Reading Teacher," every teacher is the person behind a successful student and, eventually, a contributing citizen.

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By Dr. Stan Knick, Director-UNCP Native American Resource Center

around here at The University of conditions involved in cultural "Seminar in Lumbee Literature" (AIS North Carolina at Pembroke. As always, this fall the American Indian the relation between technology, Studies Department will be offering a religion, art, literature, language and Lumbee Indians. The seminar meets program of courses to educate personality. Emphasis is placed on on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to students about the rich diversity of

the introductory level. Dr. Linda Oxendine, department chairperson, course surveys North American Indian history since the Civil War, American relationships, prominent personages, political and economic mornings from 9 to 9:50, in Old Main room 221.

1865" (AIS 110). This course surveys Main room 221. similar topics in North American earliest arrival on the continent up

Anthropology" (AIS 105). This course 9:30 to 10:45 in Old Main 221.

Once again the fall semester rolls surveys the various processes and development and change, including 450). This course will examine human ecology and cultural contacts. American Indian history and culture. Two sections of this course are Three courses will be offered at available on Tuesday and Thursday entitled "Contemporary Issues of mornings: one which meets from 8 to American Indians" (AIS 405). This 9:15, and another section which meets course examines the principal issues will present "History of the American from 9:30 to 10:45, both in the of concern to American Indians in Indian Since 1865" (AIS 111). This Business Administration Building modern times. Both national and local

with emphasis on intertribal and Euro- offering an intermediate level course federal and state governments; entitled "American Indian Education" education; substance abuse; the (AIS 239), which studies the history of environment; cultural identity and developments, and adaptation to White Indian education policy and practice survival; relations with non-Indians; culture. This course will meet on in the United States. The course religious freedom; tribal sovereignty Monday, Wednesday and Friday focuses on traditional tribal methods and other contemporary issues as as well as contemporary federal, state they arise. This seminar meets on and tribal programs. This course meets Monday afternoons from 4 to 6:45, Dr. Manuel Conley will present on Monday, Wednesday and Friday here in the Native American Resource "History of the American Indian To mornings from 11:30 to 12:20 in Old Center.

Indian history from the time of their offered. Dr. Oxendine will present professor or Mrs. Jackie Clark, "Colloquium in American Indian director of Admissions (her office is in through the Civil War. This course Studies" (AIS 401), a course which Lumbee Hall). For more information, meets on Thursday evenings from investigates selected topics in the field visit the Native American Resource 6:30 to 9:30 in Dial Building room through the reading of significant Center in historic Old Main Building, Dr. Margaret Houston will reports. This seminar meets on North Carolina at Pembroke (our present "Introduction to Cultural Tuesday and Thursday mornings from Internet address is www.uncp.edu/

Dr. Bob Reising will offer important readings by and about 9:30, in Dial Building room 122.

I will be offering a seminar in scope, topics include: politics; Dr. Linda Oxendine will also be economics; treaty relationships with

To find out how to enroll for any Three upper level courses will be of these classes, see the individual books, discussions and supplementary on the campus of The University of nativemuseum).

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