



Alvita Eason Barrow started on Sept. 2.

WFU Photo

Barrow joins Wake Forest Law

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Alvita Eason Barrow has joined the Wake Forest University School of Law's Office of Career and Professional Development as assistant director.

"We are thrilled to welcome Alvita to our staff and the law school," says Kim Fields, director of the OCPD. "Her experience in both the private and public sectors of the legal field will be invaluable to our students as she counsels them to help them find the right job."

Barrow brings a wide range of experience to this position, according to Fields. Barrow worked most recently at Columbus Community Legal Services, part of the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., as the managing director of the primary civil litigation clinic within the law school.

Previously she has worked as a clearinghouse attorney for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, an assistant public defender in the Office of the Public Defender in Rochester, N.Y., a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County in Hempstead, N.Y., and as the director of career services at George Mason University School of Law. She earned a juris doctor degree from Cornell University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Duke University.

"I am excited to join the law school community at Wake Forest," Barrow said. "My legal education was a transformative experience and laid the foundation for the achievement of my professional goals as a lawyer. I look forward to partnering with members of the Wake Forest community in helping prepare our students for successful legal careers and in assisting our students and alumni in identifying and developing a career path that will reflect their values, goals, and interests."

Barrow, who replaces former Assistant Director Kara Bowser ('04), joined Wake Forest Law on Sept. 2.



Fields

Teachers

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that is still not enough.

Several counties have reported unusually high amounts of teacher turnover. Brunswick County lost one-fifth of its 840 teachers in the 2013-14 school year. Wake County has had 600 teachers quit since the school year began, up 41 percent from last year.

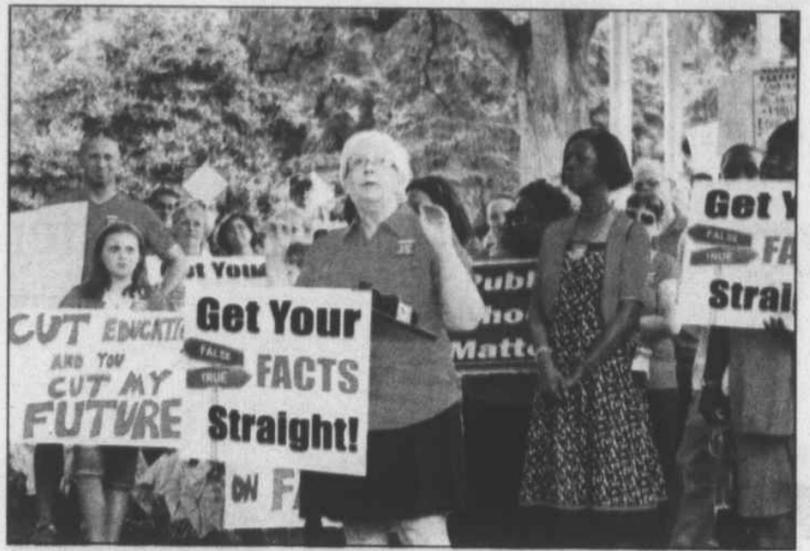
Houston (Texas) Independent School District (HISD), whose superintendent, Terry Grier, is a former Guilford County schools superintendent, came to North Carolina to capitalize on teacher discontent. HISD held its own career fairs in Charlotte, Raleigh and Greensboro with the sole purpose of recruiting N.C. teachers for its 280 schools.

About 40 former N.C. teachers have made the move to the Lone Star State. Among them is Bobbie Lynch.

The New Jersey native taught for several years at Carver High School before becoming the learning teams facilitator for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and ultimately doing a principal internship at Walkertown Middle School.

An administrative job wasn't available for her after that, and she was scheduled to teach at Mt. Tabor High School this school year. She was looking at the pay loss of going from an 11-month administrative employee to 10-month teacher. She also wouldn't be working with the at-risk students she prefers to teach.

So she decided to take advantage of HISD's offer after attending the Greensboro fair. She now teaches at Middle College High School on a



File Photo

Forsyth County Association of Educators President Ann Pettijean joins other educators, parents and students for a rally last year.

satellite campus of Houston Community College. She works with students who have been expelled or are aging out of the school system.

She said she was just making ends meet in North Carolina. In Houston, she's making \$10,000 more as a 10-month employee than she was making in North Carolina as an 11-month employee.

"It's less stressful, where I can focus on my work rather than focus on how I'm going to pay the bills," she said.

Catherine Stennette is also teaching in Houston. She taught at Rocky Mount's Tar River Academy, a non-traditional alternative school for at-risk students. The 16-year teaching veteran spent most of her career in Austin, Texas before moving to Rocky Mount. She said she returned to Texas after being told she would not be re-hired this school year because she made too much money.

"I felt extremely disrespected," she said. "I left work and had a panic attack because I didn't



Stennette

know what to do at that point."

She had attended the HISD job fair in Raleigh and now teaches at Lee High School in Houston.

In Rocky Mount she rented her home and had a second part-time job to make ends meet. Now, she plans to own a home again, like she did when she formerly taught in Austin. In addition to higher pay, Stennette said her teaching load is less in Texas and even school supplies are provided for her.

Forsyth County Association of Educators President Ann Pettijean said HISD was smart to come to North Carolina, which has the highest number of National

Board Certified Teachers in the nation and an environment where education cuts and other policies make teachers feel unwanted.

"I think there comes a point where you feel so disrespected by the people who are making decisions about your job that you have to look for another place to work," she said, adding that though the number of teachers retiring earlier or moving out of state has increased greatly, it is still a small percentage of the state's teachers.

North Carolina Association of Educators President Rodney Ellis called the situation a "travesty" and laid blame with lawmakers, who he says have allowed other states to "raid" N.C. teachers because they have not invested in them.

"Teachers right now are making some very tough decisions," he said. "Number one, if they're going to continue teaching and, two, if they're going to continue teaching in North Carolina."

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