



"Building Communicative Bridges  
in A Tri-Racial Setting"

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## ROBESON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM ACHIEVES IMPORTANT MILESTONE: RECEIVES LEVEL III STATE ACCREDITATION

An important milestone in the history of the Robeson County Schools took place recently at a meeting of the N.C. State Board of Education in Greensboro when the Robeson County Board of Education was approved for Level III State Accreditation, according to Superintendent Purnell Swett.

Superintendent Swett and Assistant Superintendent Donald A. Bonner appeared before the State Board with a presentation on behalf of the county school system at the session which was held at the Greensboro City Board of Education on May 5. Dr. David Bruton, State Board of Education Chairman, presided.

Following remarks made by the local school administrators, expressing their feelings about the Level III Accreditation process and what it means to the school system, the State Board voted to approve Robeson County for the highest level of accreditation.

Among those who attended this meeting were Superintendent Swett, Mr. Bonner, Mrs. Trudy L. Blake, Ms. Bertha M. Chavis, and Dr. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Dr. James B. Chavis, member of the State Board, made the presentation along with Dr. Bruton.

The Robeson County Schools received Level I State Accreditation in January 1980, with the Development of a

Comprehensive Plan. Level II was awarded to the county school system in May 1981, with implementation of the Plan. Level III is documentation that the Comprehensive Plan has been successful, according to Mr. Swett.

In making announcement of this achievement, Mr. Swett commended members of his central office staff and all principals of the Robeson County Schools. He cited their efforts in helping the county system to arrive at this important milestone in the education of some 15,000 students. Principals were asked to express to their teachers and the various committee members the sincere appreciation of the administrative staff.

Five areas in the Comprehensive Plan were Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Career Education. Central office supervisors who were responsible for developing these areas were Mrs. Barbara Thomas, Math; Mrs. Pazava Thompson, Language Arts; Mrs. Jacqueline Sherrod, Social Studies; Mr. Edward Ormsby, Science; Mr. Gilbert Lewis and Mr. Wilbur Smith, Career Education. Other supervisors and staff members were also involved in the process.

It was noted that the state has recently revised the process for accreditation which involves a six-year re-affirmation of this process. County educators will be discussing these plans in the near future, involving all 28 schools in the system.



Level III Accreditation for County Schools. Robeson County Schools Superintendent Purnell Swett, center, is shown here receiving a document of Level III State Accreditation from Dr. James B. Chavis, right, member of the State Board of Education. At far right is Dr. David Bruton, SBE Chairman. Others are, left to right, Dr. A. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mrs. Trudy Blake, Mrs. Bertha Chavis, and Assistant Superintendent David A. Bonner of the county schools administrative staff.



Purnell Swett, Superintendent of Robeson County Schools, is presented the scrapbook that was used in nominating him for the Leo Reano Memorial Award which he will receive in Los Angeles, CA on July 4. The award is presented annually to an individual—NEA member or non member—who has provided leadership in resolving social problems particularly as they relate to individuals of American Indian/Alaskan Native heritage. Making the presentation is Mrs. Rose Marie Lowry, outgoing president of the Robeson County NCAE unit. (Bruce Barton photo)

### Local Educators honored at Retirement and Awards Banquet

by David Malcolm

Present were teachers, both active and retired, administrators, family and friends. All crowded into Pembroke Elementary's cafeteria Friday night for the annual Robeson County NCAE-ACT Retirement and Awards Banquet.

Honored were 13 teachers with a combined service time of 410 years, as well as various other school personnel and members of the media.

Teachers retiring from the Robeson County School system and the number of years taught include: Sanford Locklear (45), Governor R. Barnes (41), Novella Hansley (40), Dorothy F.C. Oxendine (40), Albert C. Hunt (39), Ira Lee Lowry (33), Sarah N. Miller (32), Josephine Ransom (32), Barto Clark, Jr. (30), Iola Hoffer Burns (25), Lloyd Ander Hammonds (23), Juanita C. Smith (20), and James D. Pope, Jr. (10).

Mr. Purnell Swett, Superintendent of the Robeson County Schools, was recognized as being the recipient of the Leo Reano Memorial Award which he will fly to Los Angeles to receive at the 1982 National Educators Association (NEA) National Convention July 4. Swett was also presented with a scrapbook which was used to nominate him for the prestigious national award.

Bruce Barton, Editor of the *Carolina Indian Voice*, and Virginia Simkins, staff writer with *The Robesonian*, were both presented with certificates in appreciation of their efforts.

Others receiving RCNAE Certificates of Appreciation included: guest speaker and retired teacher Marshall Locklear, Ms. Jane Oxendine, Mrs. Marsha Locklear Hunt, Mrs. Harriet Mason, James C. Dial - Principal of Pembroke Elementary, Purnell Swett, Mrs. Lillian Faye Locklear on behalf of the Robeson County Board of Education, J.H. Millard of Horace Mann Insurance Company, and faculty representatives Joseph Locklear, Thomas Jones, Mrs. Earlena Lowry, Mrs. Ruth McCormick, Mrs.

Mariana Jarvis, Mrs. Christine Hunt, Mrs. Josephine B. Licente, Mrs. Rose Marie Sanderson, Mrs. Ruth Locklear, Mrs. Doris Jackson and Mrs. Sylvia Blue.

Those teachers retiring were given certificates from the Robeson County Board of Education and plaques from either the Robeson County Chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators or the Association of Classroom Teachers. Ms. Rose Marie Lowry, President of the Robeson County NCAE Unit and Jimmy Strickland, President of the Robeson County ACT Unit made the presentations.

Members of Governor B. Barnes' family presented him with a plaque in a touching show of love and appreciation.

Installation of 1982-83 NCAE and ACT officers came at the end of the evening. Mrs. Vera L. Malcolm will become president of the local NCAE unit with Mrs. Lee Helen Thompson as president-elect, Ms. Rose Marie Lowry as past president, Mrs. Etta B. Jones as recording secretary, Mrs. Jacqueline McCormick as corresponding secretary and Mrs. Mabel Zeigler as treasurer.

The upcoming school year (1982-83) is the last in which there will be a Robeson County ACT Unit. Afterwards the local ACT will merge with the local NCAE. Mrs. Agnes Chavis was installed as president for the transitional year. Jimmy Strickland will serve as past president and Mrs. Fannie L. Oxendine as treasurer.

The outgoing (1981-82) slate of officers included: NCAE—Ms. Rose Marie Lowry—president, Mrs. Vera L. Malcolm—president elect, Mrs. Lee Helen Thompson—past president, Mrs. Thayne Sanderson—recording secretary, Mrs. Earlene Locklear—corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mabel Zeigler—treasurer; ACT—Jimmy Strickland—president, Mrs. Agnes Chavis—president elect, Mrs. Etta B. Jones—secretary, Mrs. Fannie L. Oxendine—treasurer.



Front row, left to right: Mrs. Sarah N. Miller, Mrs. Josephine Ransom, Mrs. Ira Lee Lowry, Mrs. Novella Hansley, Mrs. Dorothy F.C. Oxendine; second row, left to right: Sanford Locklear, James D. Pope, Jr., Barto Clark, Jr., Governor R. Barnes. Not pictured: Albert C. Hunt, Mrs. Iola Hoffer Burns, Lloyd Ander Hammonds, Mrs. Juanita C. Smith. (Bruce Barton photo)

### Past Copies of the Carolina Indian Voice Bound and Microfilmed

See Gene Warren's  
Pembroke State University Column

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Pembroke State University recently bound and microfilmed every issue of the *Carolina Indian Voice* from the start of the newspaper in 1973 through 1980. Heading that project was Dr. Robert Hensch, PSU director of library services. Shown left to right at the recent presentation were: Juanita Locklear, director of PSU's Native American Resource Center—where the original bound copies will be housed; Bruce Jones, executive director of the N.C. Indian Commission; Bruce Barton, editor-publisher of the *Carolina Indian Voice*; Dr. Hensch; and Rod Locklear, town councilman from Pembroke and a member of the N.C. Indian Commission.

### Lumbee River EMC Officials visit Rep. Charlie Rose



Seventh District Rep. Charles Rose, far right, hosts a delegation of visitors representing Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, who recently called on members of the Tar Heel Congressional delegation. About eighty North Carolina co-op officials visited the lawmakers to ask that they support continued access to federal financing programs for the nation's electric co-ops. With Rep. Rose are, clockwise around the table from center foreground, Ann Hinson, wife of Lumbee EMC Manager Don Hinson; Bradford W. Oxendine, Timothy Strickland, Alan V. Dudley, Elias Rogers and John Paul Jones, all directors of Lumbee River EMC. Standing at left are J.W. Hunt and Bill Worthington, also Lumbee EMC directors. Standing, center, is John Ketter, manager of power supply for the North Carolina statewide organization of EMCs.



JUANITA LOCKLEAR, director of Pembroke State University's Native American Resource Center located in Old Main, displays a bound copy of the first issue of the *Carolina Indian Voice*, published on Jan. 18, 1973. It featured the dedication of the English E. Jones Physical Education Center and the Hubert C. Gaudin Science Building. The newspaper begins with 76 paid subscriptions. The subscription now number 2,386. The original volume is now kept in the Native American Resource Center.