

# Certified nursing assistants get special treatment

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

As we move through our life journey, sometimes we land on a path that requires a little more help. A caring smile or partner to help connect the necessary services to aid long term care patients helps.

Certified nursing assistants are the wind beneath the wings of many longterm care facilities throughout the community. Certified nursing assistants (CNAs) don't get the recognition of other health professionals, such as nurses and doctors. But they provide much-needed assistance to patients, particularly those in nursing homes.

The ACEY Group, part of the Winston-Salem Foundation's Women's Fund, recognized nearly 50 CNAs at The Oaks at Forsyth on 901 Bethesda Road celebrate the 41st annual National Nursing Assistants Week on Wednesday, June 13. The week ran in mid-June.

As the CNAs worked their shifts, members of the ACEY Group took the same three shifts and delivered certificates and gift bags as well as warmth and hugs. "After having a staff person on her

team as a resident of The Oaks at Forsyth and observing the quality of care shared by CNAs at that facility, Dr. Lea Vickers, an ACEY Group charter member, encouraged the group to recognize the tremendous commitment and work shown by various employees at The Oaks," the group said in a press release. "The CNAs are the persons that give the one-on-one direct care, such as bathing, feeding, and many other services to the patients. Their services are invaluable to the care of the people in the nursing facilities. So we decided to help celebrate National Nursing Assistants Week by giving the special recognition to the CNAs."

ACEY is an acronym that represents goals of the group: Achievement in the education of women and girls about the power of philanthropy; Commitment to connect with women and girls in the community; encourage self-esteem and empowerment of women and girls; and Yield women and leaders and philanthropists.



Submitted photo  
**Certified Nursing Assistants at The Oaks at Forsyth in Winston-Salem show the certificates they received from the ACEY Group during National Nursing Assistants week. In the front row left to right are Sharon Carrigan, Gwen McCarroll and Evelyn Ruivivar. In the back row left to right are Charlita Thompson, Jessica Ford, Deanna Taylor, Sharon Torrence and Dorian Johnson.**

# Two N.C. leaders receive National Education Association awards

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN — Rodney N. Ellis Sr., former president of the N.C. Association of Educators from Forsyth County, and Chris Sgro, former executive director of EqualityNC, are among 12 recipients who will be honored with prestigious 2018 Human and Civil Rights Awards from the National Education Association.

The awards ceremony, which is part of NEA's Convention and Representative Assembly, was held on Sunday, July 1, at the Main Auditorium of the Minneapolis Convention Center. This year's theme was "Many Dreams, One Voice."

"Both Rodney and Chris have made a difference in the lives of so many through their civil rights and social justice work," said NCAE President Mark Jewell. "As an educator, Rodney helped open doors for students, especially those in underserved communities, and rallied for better conditions for all educators. His legacy of commitment and dedication to public education will live on through those he fought

so hard for. As for Chris, his work to ensure that all people are treated fairly and equitably speaks volumes to his character. He has made it his mission to serve as a human rights advocate in every sense of the word. His passion to end discrimination speaks volumes about the type of person he is and his leadership."

The César Chávez Acción y Compromiso Human and Civil Rights Award will be given posthumously to Ellis, who embodied an undeniable love for and appreciation of education. Throughout his life, he worked to ensure that all students and educators across North Carolina, especially in underserved communities, received the resources they needed.

A teacher by profession, he was a true champion who served in many leadership capacities within NCAE. He often worked quietly behind the scenes to guide the Association through challenging times fostered by politically motivated attacks on public education. But, he was not afraid to step up and push back when lawmakers continued their assault, once calling on

fellow educators, parents, and students to participate in an education-focused Moral Monday and civil disobedience action in the halls of the legislative building.

Ellis led the Association for four years. While reflecting on his work and legacy at the end of his second term, he said, "There is a goal for this organization, an objective, and that is to make sure that education for educators is the best experience it can possibly be; and in doing so, we benefit those children that we teach. ... It became my objective to restore the joy of this profession for both educators and students."

For many years, Chris Sgro has been a true champion in the fight against discrimination of all people, in particular the LGBTQ community. For his work and advocacy, he will receive the Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights.

In 2016 when the North Carolina General Assembly crafted and passed House Bill 2, which refused the human rights of transgendered individuals to use the bathroom according to their gender

identification in public facilities, Sgro stepped into the forefront to combat the legislation. He led work teams of staff and volunteers to launch an impactful communications campaign that widely publicized the harmful impact of HB2 on the people, public schools, and economy of North Carolina. He used the message of human rights to advocate for change and galvanize the community for the cause. He built a powerful coalition that included civil rights leaders, corporate leaders, and the National Basketball Association (NBA). Ultimately, some of the worst provisions of HB2 were repealed in March 2017 and Sgro was one of the strongest voices to defeat it.

Sgro's legacy continues in North Carolina. Most recently, he has taken his passion and talents to fight at the national level with the Human Rights Campaign where he continues to pave the road for a bright future ahead.

NCAE is the state's largest education advocacy organization for public school employees, and represents active, retired, and student members.



Ellis

# House forms panel linked to low-income students

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — The North Carolina House of Representatives gave legislative approval on Thursday to a resolution that will establish a House Study Committee to explore ways to promote access to advanced educational opportunities in public schools for low-income students that demonstrate high academic achievement.



Rep. Hanes

House Resolution 1102 — Study Best Practice/Advanced Ed Opportunities establishes a study committee made-up of six members from the House of Representatives that is appointed upon the recommendation of the Speaker, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (or designee), the Chair of the State Board of Education (or designee), and the President of The University of North Carolina (or designee).

The committee is tasked with studying and determining the cost associated with establishing educational opportunities across the State for low-income, high-achieving students.

"It is imperative to explore the best practices

Committee.

Hanes also commented, "By passing this legislation we are giving low-income students an opportunity to partake in post-secondary studies, ultimately giving them the means to break from the ravages of poverty."

Rep. Debra Conrad (R-Forsyth), a primary sponsor of the resolution and the chairman of the Education K-12 Committee, when speak-

ment and self-motivation should be allowed to excel and break the cycle of poverty."

Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke), a primary sponsor of the resolution stated, "For more than 30 years the nation has talked about and spent money to raise achievement levels for low-income students. Except in certain limited circumstances, it really hasn't worked. My hope is this [Study] committee can identify best practices that will work with wide success if faithfully implemented by educators, with the appropriate skills and passion."

Rep. Rodney Moore (D-Mecklenburg), while speaking on the resolution from the House floor stated, "It is very, very important that we take the best that we can get and that we break this vicious cycle of poverty that has plagued our communities. As we've said before, the number one equalizer, out of poverty and out of dire straits, is education."

The Study Committee is instructed to outline their findings and proposed legislation in a final report, which is due on or before Dec. 31, the termination date of the Study Committee.

**"It is imperative to explore the best practices for identifying, teaching, and supporting economically disadvantaged, high-achieving students across the State."**

for identifying, teaching, and supporting economically disadvantaged, high-achieving students across the State. Once this group of students receive the attention they deserve, they will begin to excel in the classroom and begin contributing to society in meaningful ways," said Rep. Ed Hanes Jr. (D-Forsyth), the first primary sponsor of the resolution to establish the Study

ing on the resolution from the House floor stated, "We want to ensure that each and every student rises to their highest potential and this group [committee] will study the best way they can achieve success." Additionally, Conrad commented, "Every student, especially those from economically challenged families, who demonstrate high achieve-

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## Public Comment Opportunity For Transportation Projects

Under 49 U.S.C. 5307(b)(1) through (7) and as a direct recipient of FTA Section 5307 funding, the Winston-Salem Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization shall annually develop its Program of Projects (POP) and make it available for public review detailing the project purpose, funding requested and the local and federal share. To comply with federal regulations, the Winston-Salem Urban Area has: 1. coordinated with the three transit agencies eligible to receive the funding and identified eligible projects; 2. coordinated with the North Carolina Department of Transportation – Public Transit Division to update the Transportation Improvement Program plans and State Transportation Improvement Program; and 3. ensured the Program of Projects reflects the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the urban area. The POP details the proposed projects to be used by FTA Section 5307 and is included in this public notice.

This list of projects was made available at local libraries for public comment from June 1 through July 1, 2018, and can be found at on-line at [DOT.CityofWS.org](http://DOT.CityofWS.org). The deadline for submitting comments in writing was July 1, 2018. Oral comments will be accepted during a public hearing on the proposed POP and allocation of funding on **July 19, 2018**, during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Winston-Salem MPO's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). The meeting will be held at 4:15 p.m. in Room 530 of the Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building, 100 E. First Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. For more information, please contact Morgan Simmons by sending an email to [morgans@cityofws.org](mailto:morgans@cityofws.org).

