June 19, 2014

According to North Carolina’s 2012-2013 graduation rate report, for the first time ever, North Carolina’s four-year cohort graduation rate has exceeded 80 percent. Since 2006, the first year the state reported a four-year cohort graduation rate, the percentage of students graduating high school in four years or less has risen from 68.3% to 82.5% for the class of 2013.

“Students know the goals they want to reach and the kind of life they want to lead. A high school diploma is the first step toward reaching their goals,” said State Superintendent June Atkinson. “I appreciate students for their persistence and teachers, principals, counselors and other student support staff as well as parents for the encouragement they provide every day.”

**Featured Educator**

This month’s IEI Featured Educator is Skip Thibault. A 15-year veteran at Northwood High School, Thibault is a shining example of how our teachers continually take on multiple responsibilities in addition to educating their students. Read more here.

**Featured Action**

How do we ensure increased levels of completion throughout the education pipeline? Visit the Emerging Issues Commons to view data, stories and
collaboration, community teams from 30 counties across North Carolina recently participated in the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) and the Belk Foundation’s Community Action Plan Grant competition for a chance to win $17,500.

**Thirty-two teams from 30 counties across North Carolina entered for their chance to win $17,500 through the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) and the Belk Foundation.**

School system teams from Catawba, Greene and Lee counties received grants to address different needs of educators in those communities. IEI evaluated a total of 32 applications from across the state. Each plan was judged on competitive criteria including clarity and feasibility, collaboration among educators, budget and impact on North Carolina. All proposals were required to include at least one classroom educator, school administrator and community member.

“This funding will aid communities as they seek new ways to increase teacher effectiveness, which in turn will enhance North Carolina’s economic competitiveness,” said Anita Brown-Graham, IEI director.

A special thank you to our external judges: Brenda Berg, President and CEO of BEST NC, Leslie Ann Jackson, Director of Grants and Scholarships at the North Carolina Community Foundation, and Glenn Kleiman, Executive Director for the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation. We look forward to the great work being done statewide for our educators.
Do you know a teacher who is working hard to help students succeed? Let us know, and s/he could be featured in the next education issue!