Amidst another year of challenges due to state and local budget cuts to public education, we have continued to move forward by working together and remaining focused on success for all our students. Through visionary and insightful planning, our district accomplished our goal of saving teaching positions and not increasing the class size for the second consecutive year.

Once the uncertainties of the budget were behind us, we moved forward focusing our attention on doing all we could to make 2010-2011 the best year for our district. A few of the major accomplishments during the school year include:

- Expanding the iPod touch project to include students at North Rowan Middle, Overton Elementary and Knox Middle schools
- Placing a 21st Century Model Classroom Teacher at each school in our district
- Increasing the number of wireless busses to seven
- Hosting the first technology extravaganza showcasing our unique technology programs and advancements to over 1,000 local and state visitors
- Enlarging Rowan County Early College, located on the RCCC campus, to include 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students
- Celebrating 23 schools that met expected or high growth through the state ABC accountability model
- Receiving notification that 5 schools met AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) through the federal NCLB (No Child Left Behind) accountability model
- Increasing the graduation rate to 76.9%, which is the highest rate since the 2006 inception of the state cohort graduation measurements
- Decreasing the dropout rate to 4.24%, which is the second lowest rate in over 10 years
- Receiving the Title II Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) federal grant totaling close to $1 million

Many other goals were achieved and initiatives were established through the vision, mission, and core belief statements adopted by the school board that are highlighted throughout this report. Notably, the school board approved a new two-year District Improvement Plan for 2010-2012. This plan provides a blueprint that directs our system, as well as each individual School Improvement Plan in the district.

We continue to be faced with rigorous state and federal accountability standards, a diverse student population with an increasing poverty level, the continuing uncertainty of budget cuts, and the need for adequate funding and facilities. Yet, RSS is a team that remains on track, ready, and enthusiastic as we move forward embracing the challenges during the 2011-2012 school year.

I want to extend a big “thank you” to our community partners, local and state officials, county citizens, parents, and our school staff for the continued support in assuring that we provide the best learning environment possible for our students. We could not have accomplished all these successes without your support.

Judy Grissom, Superintendent, Rowan-Salisbury School System
VISION:
an exemplary system whose schools are recognized for the outstanding
goodness of their graduates, staff, and programs. These graduates allow
Rowan County to successfully compete regionally, nationally, and globally
for high quality business and economic development.

MISSION:
to develop globally competitive schools that inspire, challenge, and empower
students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate
knowledgeable, responsible citizenship in an increasingly challenging world.

BELIEFS:
All children deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential.
This will be achieved through:
1. creating child-centered schools;
2. implementing a balanced, rigorous curriculum for all students;
3. demanding high expectations;
4. realizing that quality of life depends on quality of education;
5. maintaining safe and supportive learning environments;
6. recruiting, retaining and promoting highly-qualified staff; and
7. developing partnerships among students, parents, teachers, staff
   and the community.
The District Improvement Plan for the Rowan-Salisbury School System is a blueprint for the future of our school system. The 2010-2012 District Improvement Plan was officially approved by the Board of Education on October 7, 2010. The District Improvement Team, comprised of representatives from the school board, school administrators, teachers, parents and community partners, created goals, focus areas and strategies, which are based on the Board of Education’s vision, mission, and core belief statements. These are the five (5) goals that are guiding our district into the future:

• **GOAL 1:** The Rowan-Salisbury School System will provide an inviting, nurturing, and safe learning environment for all students and staff.
  **Focus Area 1:** An Inviting and Nurturing Climate
  **Focus Area 2:** A Safe Learning Environment

• **GOAL 2:** The Rowan-Salisbury School System will provide a rigorous, relevant curriculum designed to prepare students for a globally competitive world.
  **Focus Area 1:** Rigorous Curriculum
  **Focus Area 2:** Relevant Instruction
  **Focus Area 3:** Global Perspective

• **GOAL 3:** The Rowan-Salisbury School System will recruit, train, and retain highly qualified professionals.
  **Focus Area 1:** Recruiting and Retaining Quality Staff
  **Focus Area 2:** Training for Highly Qualified Professionals

• **GOAL 4:** The Rowan-Salisbury School System will develop and maintain strong communication and partnerships with all stakeholders.
  **Focus Area 1:** Internal and External Communications
  **Focus Area 2:** Partnerships with Parents
  **Focus Area 3:** Partnerships with the Community

• **GOAL 5:** The Rowan-Salisbury School System will align system operations for all program areas to provide efficient use of resources.
  **Focus Area 1:** Physical and Financial Resources
  **Focus Area 2:** People and Time Resources

These goals and focus areas served as the framework for each school’s 2010-2012 School Improvement Plan.
Capital Projects

Major construction projects have come to a standstill for the past several years resulting from the severe economic impact of the recession. Along with the major state cuts experienced by our district, came the loss of Public School Building Capital Funds and the reduction in the sales tax revenues reduced the RSS capital budget by approximately 70% to $3.4 million. Although the capacity needs of the system are in good shape, there is still a growing need to replace, repair and maintain many older buildings. Woodleaf and Cleveland elementary schools need to be replaced in the near future. These buildings and several others were built in the 1920’s and continue to be a challenge in supporting the environment and technology needs for today’s 21st century schools.

The inefficiency of operating five central office locations needs to be addressed. The Central Office Long Street building is structurally unsound, the technology “Hub” must be updated, and the Ellis Street buildings are in need of repairs and renovations.

With a very limited Capital Needs Budget, only minor repairs and projects were performed in our school district.

The following Capital Projects approved by the Board of Education in February 2008, with a total expenditure of $114,574,516, are still on the table and need to be addressed:

- Replacement school for Woodleaf Elementary
- Replacement school for Cleveland Elementary
- Replacement school for Knox Middle School
- Consolidation of Central Administrative Offices
- New Southwest Area Middle School
- New South Area Elementary School
- Classroom additions for Koontz Elementary School
- Auxiliary Gymnasiums/Classrooms for all High Schools
- Auxiliary Gymnasiums/Classrooms for all Middle Schools

RSS received a COPS Grant that was matched by the district for a total of $1,000,000, for placement of security cameras in all high schools. Due to lower than anticipated costs, security cameras were also placed at several middle schools. Security cameras were part of the construction package at Carson High School when it was built in 2006. The COPS grant provided funding to install security cameras at Salisbury High and Knox Middle schools during the 2008-09 school year and during 2009-2010, security cameras were installed at East Rowan, North Rowan, South Rowan, West Rowan, and Henderson Independent high schools, along with Horizons Unlimited, North Rowan and China Grove middle schools. Security surveillance systems make the school environments safer and deter weekend vandalisms and school break-ins. It is still hopeful that funds will be available in the future to extend security systems to all middle and elementary schools.

Rowan County Early College

Rowan County Early College opened its doors in August of 2008 and welcomed the first freshman class with 73 students under the leadership of principal Dr. Cindy Misenheimer. The school has expanded each year and during the 2010-2011 school year the school held 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students. RCEC is a non-traditional high school designed to serve under-represented students such as first-generation college students. RCEC students can earn a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credits in four years. The average freshman ends the academic year with 6 hours of transferable college credits and the average sophomore ends the year with 12 hours of transferable college credits.

RCEC provides project/problem-based learning, built upon the guiding principles of relevancy, relationships, and rigor. All students enroll in honors level high school courses, while participating in college courses, as well as seminars, field trips, community service, and college/university campus visits on Fridays.

PLEASE NOTE: RCEC follows a non-traditional school year calendar that can be found the district’s website.
Partnerships

The Rowan-Salisbury School System continues to be grateful to the many community partners that play a vital role in the success of our students and our school system. Much gratitude is extended to our parents, businesses, colleges, federal, state, and local officials, civic organizations, foundations, and churches for stepping forward to assure that the educational needs of our students are being met on the highest possible level. We couldn’t do what we do without this support.

Athletic Trainers – RSSS entered into a partnership with Rowan Regional Medical Center and RoMedical to provide nationally licensed athletic trainers at all RSS high schools.

Fit For Motion – Partnerships with Rowan Regional Medical Center, the YMCA of Rowan County, and Food Lion, Inc. addressed child obesity through the program titled “Fit For Motion.” Food Lion, RRMC and the YMCA staffs offer a leadership team of specialists that sponsored and promoted good health and lifelong wellness through education, self-awareness, and physical activity in an entertaining environment. Fit for Motion completed its second year, targeting second-grade students.

Rowan Partners for Education (RPE) – The Rowan Partners for Education (RPE), a subsidiary of the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce and the business community, continues to demonstrate support through an emphasis on improving academics and assisting teachers through events, programs, and committees. RPE completed its third year of assisting teachers with free classroom supply needs through the “Educators Express,” addressed solutions to the student dropout rate through the “Help Youth Stay in School” committee by piloting a program at Koontz Elementary, targeting at risk kindergarten students.

Geared Up 4 Success, another initiative of the Chamber, reaches out to middle and high school students guiding them to realize the many skilled and technical professions available that will lead to maximizing their educational experience. Geared up for Success is about:

- Educating students about the many exciting and rewarding skilled, technical career choices that await them.
- Promoting the benefits of these careers to parents, educators and the community.
- Providing technical training and skills development to prepare youth for these careers.

The Geared Up 4 Success website: www.GearedUp4Success.com provides more information for students, parents, educators and business leaders.

Sponsorships For Events – The Chamber generously sponsors two important RSS annual celebrations: the Teacher of the Year Breakfast and the New Teacher Breakfast.

Rowan County United Way continues to be a huge supporter for our schools through numerous programs and activities such as the annual “Day of Caring” where hundreds of community volunteers completed needed projects at the majority of our schools; Service Above Self, reaching out to hundreds of students in recognition for service to their community; partnering with the LINKS program to provide “Connected” staff training, and numerous other programs that keep students safe and focused on achieving to the best of their ability. Rowan County United Way is a key player in helping citizens by offering assistance through the 16 agencies they represent. United Way received a special award during the 2009 Annual Report breakfast for their generous support of our school system. Education continues to be a number one priority for the Rowan County United Way – Thank you United Way for all you give to our students and schools!
THANK YOU to our many local foundations for the grants received during 2010-2011. Many schools benefited in moving forward because of these generous funds. The Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation, Inc. graciously presented our schools with a total of $359,066. Listed below is a summary of grants received at the district level:

GRANT MONEY RECEIVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOUNDATION</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernice Lerner Trust Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation, Inc.</td>
<td>$359,066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dollar General</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke Energy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hanford Dole</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy United</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitachi Metals of NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Paper Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowe’s Charitable &amp; Educational Foundation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Dairy Council</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC Health &amp; Wellness Trust Fund</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Chinese Language Council International</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Ketner</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salisbury Community Foundation</td>
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<td>Simple Solutions of NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of North Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walmart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walser Technology Group, Inc.</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodson Foundation</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$542,430.59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher Supply Money

Many thanks and appreciation to the Rowan County Board of Commissioners for recognizing the importance of retaining teaching positions by approving to transfer the annual “Teacher Supply” funds to be used to keep teaching positions.

The City of Salisbury continues to show support for education through a number of initiatives, such as Gang Prevention and Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Communities In Schools

Since 1998, Communities in Schools (CIS) has offered a variety of services directed towards keeping students in school. Last year over 3,000 children and their families benefited from these services. CIS also provided training for school-based volunteers and supported dropout prevention at seven schools. Through the School Tools campaign over 2,800 children received backpacks or school supplies in 28 schools.

Smart Start Rowan partnered with RSS in preparing preschool children for a healthy, safe, supportive start upon entering kindergarten. Smart Start also provided assistance with other programs such as Teen Parents, Screening Services with our Exceptional Children’s Department, technical assistance, monitoring and administration of the More At Four program.

RSSS Continued our Partnership with local radio station WSAI, “Memories 1280,” to sponsor “Education Minutes” that highlights news and events twice a day, Monday through Friday, keeping our community informed about what is happening in the Rowan-Salisbury Schools.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>ABCs GROWTH STATUS</th>
<th>MET AYP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson High</td>
<td>High Growth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Rowan High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowan County Early College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salisbury High</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Rowan High</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Schools</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>China Grove Middle</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corriher-Lipe Middle</td>
<td>High Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erwin Middle</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Rowan Middle</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Middle</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Rowan Middle</td>
<td>High Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bostian Elementary</td>
<td>High Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Grove Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enochville Elementary</td>
<td>High Growth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Elementary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite Quarry Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanford Dole Elementary</td>
<td>High Growth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isenberg Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koontz Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landis Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millbridge Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Ulla Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockwell Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shive Elementary</td>
<td>Expected Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dropout Rate — Grades 9-12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>4.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>3.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>5.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>5.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
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**Average SAT Scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reading/Math</th>
<th>Reading/Math/Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>1422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>1396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>1442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>1434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>1435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Enrollment Trends**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>19,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>19,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>20,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>20,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>20,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>20,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>20,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>20,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>20,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>20,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>20,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>19,879</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ethnic Composition**

- Multi Ethnic: 2.38%
- Black: 19.09%
- Asian: 1.18%
- Hispanic: 11.77%
- American Indian: 0.28%
- White: 65.30%

**OTHER INFORMATION**

- Student Languages/Dialects: 35
- Exceptional Children: 2,606
- Academically and Intellectually Gifted Children: 1,626
- Students on Free/Reduced Meals: 60.5%
National Board Certified Teachers:
Twenty-two RSS teachers received certification, which brings our total number of National Board Certified Teachers in RSS to 191.

- Amie Capano: Science/Adolescence & Young Adulthood, Carson High
- Carol Harper: Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood / Career and Technical Education, Erwin Middle
- Karen Lundgren: Art/Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood, Carson High
- Mark Riley: Art/Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood, Carson High
- Lynn Haynes: Art/Early Adolescence Through Young Adulthood, Corriher-Lipe Middle
- Gina Durham: Generalist/Middle Childhood, Horizons Unlimited
- Pamela Brothers: Generalist/Early Childhood, Hurley Elementary
- Connie Puleo: Generalist/Early Childhood, Knollwood Elementary
- Heather Falotico: English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Rebecca Gregory: Generalist/Early Childhood, Knox Middle
- Reagan McIntyre: Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood Through Young Adulthood, Koontz Elementary
- Patricia Ritchie: Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood, Landis Elementary
- Melanie Ferguson: Generalist/Early Childhood
- Kiyana Roberts: Generalist/Middle Childhood
- Laura Lowder: Generalist/Early Childhood
- Amber Martin: Generalist/Middle Childhood
- Suzanne Gibbons: Mathematics/Early Adolescence
- Maureen Mensing: English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood
- Shakinah Riley: English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood
- Holly Lowder: English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Gwynne Shoaf: English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Wendy Fontenot: English Language Arts Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Human Resource Statistics

- Licensed full time employees: 1710
- Classified full time employees: 1217
- Part time employees: 147
- Rank in Rowan County for number of employees: 1

Total Beginning Teachers: 204

- Beginning Teacher - 1s: 80
- Beginning Teacher - 2s: 47
- Beginning Teacher - 3s: 77
- Master / Advanced degrees: 438
- Doctorate degrees: 17
- National Board Certified Teachers: 191
- Highly Qualified Teachers: 99.77%
District Map
Rowan-Salisbury Schools
High School Attendance Zones
West Rowan High School FFA Marketing Team was the Highest Scoring Team in the NC FFA Association’s Career Development Event.

West Rowan High School FFA Agricultural Sales Senior Team was the Highest Scoring Team in the NC FFA Association’s Career Development Event.

East Rowan High School Student Council was named an “Honor Council” by the NC Association of Student Councils.

Five East Rowan High School FBLA Students finished in the top ten in the state during the NC FBLA State Competition: Alex Bost, Alena Nouansavanh, Dakotah Munson, Devin Johnston, Jasmine Cooper.

East Rowan High and Erwin Middle Schools were named NC District West Jr. Honor Clubs of Distinction.

Rowan County Early College and West Rowan High School were named NC District West Jr. Honor Clubs.

Salisbury High School was recognized by two publications: 1) the U.S. News and World Report and 2) The Washington Post for effectively preparing students for college and for serving all populations.

Twenty-three RSS Schools received plaques for their achievements through the state ABCs accountability model.

Seven RSS Schools received the USDA “Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program” grant as submitted by the Child Nutrition Department: Granite Quarry, Hanford Dole, Koontz, Landis, North Rowan, Overton, and Shive elementary schools.

Madeline Lawyer, South Rowan High School student, received the “Legion of Valor Bronze Cross”.

Abby Fields, Corriher-Lipe Middle School student, won the RSS “Holiday Card” contest.

Yasmeka Howie, Corriher-Lipe Middle School student, placed third in the National Career Development Poetry and Poster Contest and first place in the state “Celebrating My Career Dreams” Poetry and Poster Contest - Poetry Division.

Leland Chapman, Jesse Carson High School, served as a US House of Representative Page for Congressman Mel Watt.

Whitney Young, North Rowan High School, was named the RSS CTE Student of the Year.

Romar Morris, Salisbury High School student, received the recognition of “Top Male Athlete” in the state and was named the 1A, 2A, 3A State Indoor Track Champion for the 55 Meter Dash.

Alisha Bradshaw, Salisbury High School student, was named the 1A, 2A, 3A State Indoor Track Champion for the Shot Put.

Four Corriher-Lipe Middle School students were named winners in the NC Career and Development Poetry and Poster Contest.

Three RSS students were named winners in the 2010 School Bus Safety Contest competition in NC.

Two RSS students were named winners in the NC Science and Engineering Fair.

East Rowan High School’s Junior Civitan Club received the Junior Civitan International’s “Club of the Year” award.

2010 RSS TOY Julie Stolze received the “Phillip J. Kirk, Jr. Honored Educator Scholarship” for NCCAT.

RSS Superintendent Dr. Judy Grissom was named the Southwest Regional Superintendent of the Year.

Theresa Pierce, RSS educator, received the 2011 “White-Reinhardt Scholarship” to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Convention.

Bryson Nesbitt, Corriher-Lipe Middle School Bus Driver, is the state winner in the “School Bus Roadeo” competition.

Delores Morris, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, was honored by the American Association of School Personnel Administrators for serving on the AASPA Legislative and Governmental Committee.

Carrie Hayworth, Cleveland Elementary School teacher, received the Energy United “Bright Ideas” grant.

Kori Cairrileker, Rockwell Elementary School teacher, received the Union Power “Bright Ideas” grant.

Phil Moore, Transportation Department Mechanic, was approved as a state “School Bus Inspector”.

Anthony Johnson, Overton Elementary Tech Facilitator, was selected to the “Apple Distinguished Educator Program Class”.

To name a few:

Students and Schools…

Staff…
**Awards**

*The Rowan-Salisbury School System* received the “Apple Exemplary Program Award for 2010-2011.

**Twenty-Two RSS Teachers** received the title of being a National Board Certified Teacher.

**Twelve RSS Teachers** renewed their certification for National Board Certified Teachers.

**93 RSS Employees** received “Customer Service” certificates for demonstrating excellent customer service skills.

**32 RSS Facilities** received the National US EPA “Energy Star” for ranking in the top 25% of the nation for energy efficiency.

**Blue Ribbon Awards**

The NC School Public Relations Association (NCSGRA) awarded RSS with a State Blue Ribbon Award for excellence in effective communications and public relations. RSS was recognized for the 2009-2010 Annual Report. This marks the fourth straight year that the Annual Report has won a state blue ribbon for excellence.

**Teacher of the Year**

**LOCAL:** The 2010-2011 RSS Teacher of the Year (TOY) Julie Stolze, teaches English at the Rowan County Early College. Julie previously served in the district as a Curriculum Coach and taught language arts and social studies.

The Rowan County Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Annual TOY Breakfast to honor all the school TOYs and presents the winner with a $1000 stipend to be used for his/her school or classroom. The winner also receives a $1000 check along with a new laptop and printer for his/her personal use from the RSS Board of Education. The RSS TOY is honored by receiving the “Phillip J. Kirk, Jr. Honored Educator Scholarship at NCCAT.” This scholarship covers the cost associated with a five-day seminar.

**Principal of the Year**

Middle School principal Dr. James Davis was named the 2011 Wachovia Principal of the Year for RSS. Dr. Davis began his career in the Rowan-Salisbury School System in 2008 when he was named principal of China Grove Middle School. Dr. Davis was named the principal of Knox Middle School in June 2011.

**Athletics**

This was the year for a number of our high school athletic teams in the district to win state championships and several winning state championships for the third and fourth consecutive years:

- South Rowan High School 1A Girls Basketball Team won the 1A State Championship.
  - Andrew Mitchell is the head coach.
- North Rowan High School Boys Outdoor Track Team won the 1A State Championship.
  - Robert Steele is the head coach.
- Scholar Athletic Team Awards were presented to three high school teams:
  - Salisbury High School Girls Swim Team with a Team GPA of 3.93.
  - South Rowan High School Girls Basketball with a Team GPA of 3.93.
  - Salisbury High School Girls Cross Country with a Team GPA of 3.88.

****These GPAs were the highest GPAs in the state for the respective sport, regardless of classification**.**
**Grant Awards**

**Title II MSP Grant**

RSS was awarded the “Title II Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant in the amount of $949,000. This grant will be used for professional development opportunities for Inquiry Science Training with all K-8 science teachers over the next 3 years.

**Dropout Grant**

In partnership with Communities In Schools, North Rowan High and North Rowan Middle school students benefited from programs to ensure high school graduation by improving attendance, academic achievement, and behaviors and attitudes about school through mentoring, tutoring, and summer academic camp. This was the third and final year for this grant.

**Physical Education Program Grant**

RSS implemented the second year of the three-year, $1.4 million Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant. All elementary schools received additional funds to supplement SPARK, the physical education curriculum. All middle schools implemented the HOPSports program that combines technology, music, and physical fitness activities to enhance our physical education curriculum. New equipment was also purchased to supplement the SPARK physical education curriculum at all middle schools. All high schools received fitness equipment for new fitness labs which included 5 treadmills, 5 elliptical machines, 2 rowers, 5 cycles, 1 rack of dumbbells and accessory conditioning equipment.

**Horizons Unlimited Grants**

- Robertson Foundation Grant of $50,000 for High Quality Jobs for N.C. to promote bio-technology education and workforce development
- Horizon’s grant for Margaret G. Woodson Foundation for $6,500.00 for upgrades to the planetarium

**USDA Grants**

Granite Quarry, Hanford Dole, Koontz, Landis, North Rowan, Overton, and Shive elementary schools were selected to be recipients of the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This grant-funded program covers approximately $30,000 to 40,000 per year per school providing students with healthy fruit and vegetable snacks throughout the school week.
Support Services

Maintenance Department Information

The Rowan-Salisbury Schools Maintenance Department staff consists of 44 employees, including carpenters, electricians/HVAC, plumbers, painters, food service technicians, an energy manager, fixed assets/delivery personnel, and clerical and custodial supply specialists, and is responsible for the operations and upkeep of 34 school campuses, 130 mobile classroom units, six support facilities, and several storage warehouses. Maintenance also operates the inter-school system mail operations and courier services, along with other school deliveries such as fixed assets, testing materials, textbooks, and school supplies.

Maintenance received 15,046 work requests from June 2010 to June 2011, of which 97.42% were completed. The majority of the remaining requests are of a capital outlay nature and require additional budget funding.

Child Nutrition Program

Serving a hot breakfast for 34 schools and lunch program at 35 schools, the Child Nutrition Program serves over one-fourth of our students breakfast and over three-fourths of our students lunch. Close to 77% of elementary school children eat lunch at school. Approximately 260 Child Nutrition employees offer meals that meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and promote healthy meal choices. In the 2010-2011 school year, we served over 3.5 million meals to students. RSS has a free & reduced rate of 60.5%.

Rowan-Salisbury Schools Transportation Department Information

2010/2011 School Year

It is the responsibility of the Transportation Department to transport pupils in the Rowan-Salisbury Schools from home to school then return home safely.

- Total number of students in RSSS 19,879
- Total number of reg. students transported 10,210
- Total number of EC students transported 185
- Total number (regular & special needs) students transported 10,395
- Total number of buses 189
- Total number of regular miles driven 2,088,044
- Total number of EC miles driven 433,963
- Total (regular & EC) miles 2,522,007
- Total number of bus stops 12,519

Rowan-Salisbury Schools operated with no serious accidents/injuries related to driver error

Efficiency rating for 2010-11 92.21%
State Average Efficiency rating 92.84%
District Wide
• Implemented the SPARK and ISPOD curriculum and equipment in all schools
• Received a three-year Math and Science Partnership Grant (MSP) for $949,000.00
• Developed and implemented Words At Work and Word Detectives Vocabulary Programs
• Provided the Professional Achievement Certificate Program for AIG licensure
• Completed Race to the Top (RttT) Detailed Scope of Work
• Sponsored “Technology Matters - What’s Right With Education”
• Sponsored Band and Chorus Programs for all grade levels
• Provided Tech 21 Training for use of integrated technology and higher order thinking skills
• Presentations by the 21st Century Model Classroom Teachers at the National ISTE Conference
• Provided 4 Wireless Buses
• Expanded RTI (Responsiveness to Instruction) models to 9 schools
• Implemented the AIG Problem Based Learning model
• Provided an online seminar and Leadership Book Study

for Assistant Principals
• Renewed the School Improvement Grant for Reading Foundations
• Continued with Reading Foundations training
• Expanded the Faith Based effort to 75 partnerships
• Provided four Early Release Days for teachers to receive staff development
• Provided ongoing technology training to incorporate technology integration
• Expanded the 21st Century Model Classroom Teacher Program
• Held district wide chorus and art shows

Elementary and Middle Schools
• Presented an AIG Film Festival for eighth-grade students
• Sponsored a field trip to Washington D.C. for elementary students.
• Implemented the Legos Program and AIG Lego Camp.
• Implemented Math 24 Competition for all middle school students
• Expanded the iPod touch Program to Knox and North Rowan Middle and Overton Elementary
• Implemented three alternative learning program sites sponsored by the Exceptional Children’s Department
  • Expanded Fit for Motion to include 12 schools
  • Continued participation in Math Partners Grant
  • Received a 3-D Wireless Reading Assessment Grant for three elementary schools
  • Received a Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation Grant for Elementary Field Trips
  • Piloted the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program at Overton and Koontz elementary schools

Middle and High Schools
• Sponsored high school and middle school Registration Nights
• Implemented the CTE Bloom’s Taxonomy Instructional models
• Received the Bio-Moto Grant for a Middle School Fitness and Science Program
• Provided SIOP training for middle schools
• Implemented an ESL model for all middle schools
• Piloted the Anti-Gang Program (GREAT) at Knox Middle
• Created the “Leading Ladies of Knox” initiative
• Implemented Read 180 at North Rowan and West Rowan middle schools
• Offered an ROTC Mentoring Program for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students
• Offered the Academy of Science and Math summer program to 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students
• Partnered with CIS to implement the Dropout Prevention Grant Programs at North Rowan Middle and North Rowan High schools

High School
• Adopted the EDU 2.0 platform for blended learning in high schools
• Enrolled the third Freshmen Class at the Early College
• Installed wireless technology, multiple laptop carts, and Promethean Boards at Henderson Independent High School
• Implemented a Night School for Credit Recovery at West Rowan and Carson high schools
• Expanded the 21st Century Model Classroom model to include every school
• Implemented the second year of the School Improvement Grant for Henderson Independent High School from DPI

Horizons
• Offered the Astronomy’s Awesome Camp
• Offered the Mysteries of Science, Summer Engineering Experience
• Offered the Engineering Experience for Girls
• Implemented the Camp SEEK for rising 6th graders at Knox Middle
• Sponsored Science Rocks Program
• Implemented the CSI after school program for Knox Middle

Innovation
21st Century Model Classrooms
RSSS increased the number of 21st Century Model Classrooms to include one teacher in each school across the district. This initiative began during the 2007-2008 school year in response to the state’s focus on ensuring that all students be successful citizens and workers in the 21st century.

iPod touch Project
The iPod touch based Digital Learning Environment Project at North Rowan High is the result of a joint partnership between Apple Computer and RSSS to provide students with an opportunity to learn 21st century technology. Through grant opportunities, all students at North Rowan High use an iPod touch for their classes. This program was extended to include students from North Rowan and Knox middle schools. Students at Overton Elementary use the iPod touch across the curriculum.

Technology Matters: What’s Right With Public Schools
RSSS hosted a technology extravaganza at the end of the school year at North Rowan High School. All 35 schools and the central office departments showcased how the use of technology is important in the lives of students and their education. Students from every school shared their technology skills, projects, and creativity. Over 1,000 local and state officials, business leaders, and community supporters gained insight into how well public schools are preparing students to be successful in a global society.
Communication Efforts

The Rowan-Salisbury School System continues to make new additions and updates to our communication venues in our community, staff and parents. The following are several of these initiatives:

- Online School Board meeting agendas
- Online district leadership meetings
- Rowan-Salisbury School System’s webpage
- The Superintendent’s Friday Notes
- Advisory groups among teachers, parents, classified staff, principals and administrators, and students
- Parent Teacher Magazine
- Bi-monthly newsletters to every staff member and community stakeholders
- Bi-weekly op-ed newspaper articles
- Marketing and teacher recruitment package
- Connect-ED phone messaging system
- District Improvement Plan to all parents
- Refrigerator Magnet offering 10 ways to help your child succeed to all Kindergarten parents – English/Spanish
- Presentations and participation in civic and community organizations
- County Commission meetings
- Annual Report to the Community Breakfast
- Radio News Spot – “Education Minutes”

Financial Data

Total Operating Expenditures

- Salaries & Related Costs - 85%
- Purchased Services - 6%
- Supplies & Materials - 9%
- Capital Outlay - <1%
- Transfer - <1%

Total Operating Revenue

- State Sources - 64%
- Federal Sources - 14%
- County Appropriation - 21%
- Other Sources - 1%
RSSS In Action
Moving Forward

with the RSS Energy Bus...