



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

February 5, 2008

Dear LEA Superintendents:

We are writing to encourage you to partner with your North Carolina Cooperative Extension 4-H professional on a national youth development research project. The North Carolina 4-H Youth Development Program located at NC State University is participating in this national longitudinal study of youth. The Public Schools of North Carolina have been asked to partner with this effort and we have endorsed this important initiative as we all work together to build a strong future for our state's youth.

A brief of the project is attached. More information on the study is available by logging into [www.4Hbrandnetwork.org](http://www.4Hbrandnetwork.org) and following the links to "4-H Study of Positive Youth Development." The study, led by internationally-recognized scholars, Dr. Richard and Jackie Lerner of Tufts University, is the most extensive longitudinal research ever conducted with youth.

The research costs for this project are being covered by the North Carolina 4-H Program under the direction of Dr. Marshall Stewart. Dr. Ben Silliman at NC State University is serving as the Director for the North Carolina effort. Dr. Silliman can be reached at 919.515.8485 or [ben\\_silliman@ncsu.edu](mailto:ben_silliman@ncsu.edu). Youth and sites will be eligible for prize drawings. Your local 4-H professional will coordinate the effort for you, but will need your help with facilities, schedules, and obtaining parent consent. Your cooperation with this will be imperative for its success.

We look forward to your partnership in better understanding and serving North Carolina citizens. As always, your support is much valued in our innovative efforts with youth and advocacy for youth.

Sincerely,

June St. Clair Atkinson

Howard N. Lee

JSA:HNL:mw

Enclosure

## OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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