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**Futures for Kids (F4K) Awarded Dropout Prevention Continuation Grant**

**Raleigh, NC—January 13, 2009-** Futures for Kids (F4K) will receive \$150,000 from the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the General Assembly. F4K is one of 37 organizations across North Carolina to be awarded a continuation grant to help reduce the number of high school dropouts.

Only 68 percent of North Carolina's high school students graduate in four years. The \$150,000 F4K receives will develop and strengthen partnerships in eight underserved counties (Durham, Edgecombe, Hertford, Richmond, New Hanover, Lee, Pender and Burke), reaching more than 85,000 students.

This grant enables F4K to further expand and confirm the effectiveness of its program. A May 2006 evaluation by Duke University's Child and Family Policy Center noted that, "88 percent of students using F4K were more excited about graduating from high school."

"Through F4K, we can reinforce not only the relevance of school but the possibilities that exist for each and every student to create their own path to success," said David Burleson, Superintendent for Burke County Public Schools. "I know that F4K will be an asset to our efforts in this arena based on their successful track record in the schools and the community."

With this funding, F4K will expand the availability of its online career exploration program in the middle and high schools. New features also provide support for students in completing their recently mandated NC Graduation Projects. These features include electronic portfolios and documentation of interaction with e-mentors. F4K will continue to enroll local businesses to provide more online Career Coaches and access to work-based learning opportunities for students.

"We are excited to provide these resources to as many students as possible," said Futures for Kids Executive Director Susan Milliken. "Our goal is to level the playing field for NC's students, offering resources and connections they would not typically be exposed to."

A total of \$14.4 million in dropout prevention grants ranging in size from \$9,100 to \$150,000 were awarded to school systems, schools, agencies and nonprofits in regions across North Carolina.

**About Futures for Kids (F4K)**

Futures for Kids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that seeks to bridge the gap between the hopes and dreams of our students and the workforce development needs of our communities. Now reaching students in 30 counties, F4K uses technology to create a community of support around our kids, encouraging them to explore careers by connecting with Career Coaches and companies across North Carolina. For more information about F4K or to sign up as a Career Coach, please visit the website at [www.f4k.org](http://www.f4k.org).

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