



News Release

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Wake County SmartStart to Kick Off Month-Long 20th Anniversary Celebration

WCSS is coming of age for a brighter future – looking back at twenty years of community partnerships, and looking ahead to what is still needed to ensure every child succeeds. Throughout the month of April, Wake County SmartStart will celebrate its 20th anniversary - hosting a series of events presented by [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC](#), [PNC Bank](#) and [Northwestern Mutual](#).

Over twenty years, our presence has touched the lives of many – supporting families through home visiting and parent education programs, improving the quality of child care, and providing inclusive learning opportunities for children through NC Pre-Kindergarten.

Our 20th Anniversary events reflect the diversity and breadth of our work:

- [Garden Party](#) – Saturday, April 1st - 4-6 pm – An intimate get together for community leaders where former Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. will be honored. Sponsored by [18 Seaboard](#) and [Retirement Plan Solutions, Inc.](#)
- [Bright Futures Forum](#) – Wednesday, April 5th - 12-2 pm – A gathering for professionals and advocates with a keynote on the state of young children. Sponsored by [Kaplan Early Learning Company](#) and [Ready Rosie](#).
- [Birthday Blast](#) – Saturday, April 22nd - 9-11 am – A celebration for families of Wake County featuring play and photos with UNC-TV character mascots. Sponsored by [Childcare Network](#) and [UNC-TV](#).
- [Storybook Gala](#) – Thursday, April 27th - 6:30-9 pm – An evening celebrating the stories and educators that ignite imaginations. Sponsored by [Pool Professionals of the Carolinas](#) and [Quail Ridge Books](#).

Press are invited to attend events as desired. If you would like to read more about our Anniversary, please visit www.wakesmartstart.org/20thanniversary. To book an interview highlighting the impact of early investments over the years, please contact Phyllis Barbour, Director of Community Relations at 919-723-9271 or pbarbour@wakesmartstart.org.

About Wake County SmartStart

Wake County SmartStart works to ensure children, birth to five, are prepared for success in school and in life. This mission is carried out in four goal areas; children are in safe supportive home environments, are in high-quality care that contributes to positive child outcomes, are healthy and ready for school and that children and their families are supported by a strong, diverse integrated early childhood system. Through community collaborations and funding of local partners, we expand the support available to children and their families. To learn more about our mission, visit www.wakesmartstart.org.

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