



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Arc of Wake County Working with Special Education

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The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) held its regular monthly meeting of the school year on October 18th. During this meeting, Arc Board Member, Jennifer Pfaltzgraff was elected to chair the SEAC and Leslie Welch, representing The Wake County Autism Society, was elected Vice Chair. The SEAC serves as a conduit between the families of students receiving special education services and the school administrators to promote communication, create opportunities for families to better understand the school system and special education policies, and to create a positive working relationship so that each student can become a valued, respected and contributing member of their school and community.

At a retreat this summer, the Council established a Vision to help better focus on ways the SEAC can support exceptional children in Wake County Public Schools:

- Solicit input and direction from parents and the community on the education of children with special needs.
- Disseminate information about special education programs and services to parents and the community.
- Enhance programs and services for children with special education needs, and forge a productive, beneficial and sustained link between those who offer these services and those who receive them.

Another exciting change for the SEAC is the addition of Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Dr. Lisa Grillo joining other Wake County Public Schools staff at the monthly meetings. Dr. Grillo's leadership and ideas along with the renewed vigor of the SEAC should make for a positive partnership that will serve the students of Wake County and their families.

Pfaltzgraff had this to say, "It is very exciting for me to be sitting at a table with so many talented and supportive people. It is my honor to be chairing this group and I look forward to helping the council to achieve its goals in our community."

The Arc of Wake County partners with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to help them achieve their life goals.

Formed in 1954, The Arc of Wake County was formed as a volunteer organization. Families were active in establishing the first classes for children with developmental disabilities in the public schools, special programs in churches, residential and employment programs, recreational opportunities and respite care services. Today, with a membership of nearly 250 individuals and families, The Arc provides programs and services to help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families:

- CAP Services
- Case Management
- Guardianship Services
- Supported Employment
- Retirement and Leisure Services for Seniors & Adults
- Transportation Training
- Advocacy, information, referral, and community education

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARC OF WAKE COUNTY, PLEASE CONTACT:

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