



NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 29, 2016

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## **Poe Center for Health Education Celebrates Annual Awards and Achievements**

*Wyrick Robbins Law Firm Among Recipients of  
Poe Center's Annual Awards for Service to Health Education*

Raleigh, NC— State Superintendent of the NC Department of Public Instruction June Atkinson and Larry Robbins of Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP were among the 15 North Carolina leaders who hosted the Poe Center's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Over 125 people attended the fundraising event, which presented a large-scale commemorative mural by NC artist Nicholas Bragg and featured silent and live auctions emceed by local personality Mark Roberts. Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors, the event raised over \$25,000 for health education.

Board president Jim McGrath of Danaher Corporation presented the Center's annual awards:

### **Faye L. Miller Distinguished Service Award: Laura Aiken of Press Ganey & Associates**

This award honors a board member or volunteer who demonstrates exceptional service, dedication and commitment to the Poe Center. A board member for six years, Ms. Aiken served as board president in 2015 and co-lead the plans in 2016 to celebrate the Center's Anniversary. Additionally, she provided support to increase Poe's capacity via a grant with John Rex Endowment.

### **The Gordon Smith Jr. Award: Larry Robbins of Wyrick, Robbins, Yates and Ponton, LLC**

This award is presented to an individual or organization whose outstanding support and leadership help ensure the financial security of the Poe Center and perpetuates the Gordon Smith Jr. legacy. Larry Robbins has been a committed donor for over 25 years and also supports the Poe Center's "Poe Young Professionals" network.

### **President's Award: David Greenlee and Greenlee Dental Center**

The President's Award honors the achievements of an individual or organization whose work over the past year shows a strong commitment to prevention and health education in our state. Dr. David Greenlee's and Greenlee Dental Center's contributions to dental health have helped advance health service and education in NC.

### **Educator of the Year: Nakisha Floyd, Administrator with NC Department of Public Instruction**

This award honors champions of physical education or health education in the schools. This educator has worked closely with the Poe Center and others to implement, enhance or institute programs and policies that are supportive of healthy behaviors. Nakishah Floyd's deep involvement at the Poe Center is evidence of her mantra, "We're always trying to find ways to

make health relevant. The whole thing is to have young people make positive decisions so they can develop into healthy adults and make positive contributions to society.”

The event also highlighted many of the Poe Center’s accomplishments and activities in 2016.

- The Poe Center expanded its partnership with Wake County’s Summer Nutrition Program offering nutrition activities during more than 50 free-lunch events around Wake County. Additionally, Poe continued to host free lunch to youth at the Center during the summer months feeding over 600 meals to young people in 2016.
- The Science of Addiction is a new program offered to high school students that delves into the world of psychoactive drugs and the affects they can have on your brain. At the end of the program, students can categorize the different types of drugs, explain the characteristics, identify neurotransmitters affected, and describe symptoms of each.
- With the support of a grant from SNAP-Ed, nutrition and physical activity staff have reached over 15,000 individuals via classroom programs and health fairs. Poe’s nutrition and fitness social media campaigns have reached over 22 million people in eight of NC’s most needy counties.

See the complete list in the 2016 Annual Report <http://bit.ly/poeannualreport2016>.

### **About the Poe Center**

The Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and empowering North Carolina’s children, youth and their families to make choices that increase positive health behaviors. Since establishing its Raleigh facility in 1991, the Poe Center has provided health education to nearly one million children throughout North Carolina. By engaging in fun, highly interactive lessons, preschoolers through twelfth graders receive information that follows the NC DPI Healthful Living Essential Standards on a variety of health topics, including nutrition, dental health, general health, family life and drug prevention. For additional information about the Poe Center, please visit [www.poehealth.org](http://www.poehealth.org).

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