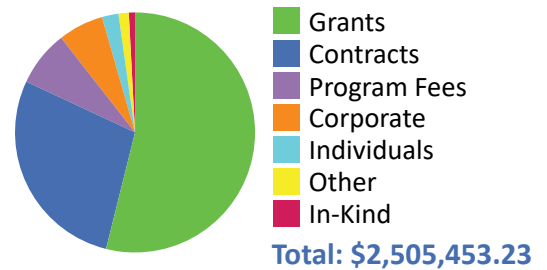




The Poe Center continues to be on the cutting edge of emerging health-education practices and issues. Thanks to generous donors and grants, our expert health educators are using **augmented reality** and **therapeutic horticulture** to create innovative original content and experiences. Programs are exceeding pre-pandemic attendance, and we are engaging community leaders and members to address **critical public-health issues**, such as reducing youth vaping and preventing firearm-related death and injuries.

Help us help North Carolinians live healthier lives. Tell a teacher about the Poe Center, share our social media, volunteer your time, or join our new monthly giving club, the GiveWELL Sustainers.

Poe Funding 2022-2023*



The Poe Center's Reach* & Highlights

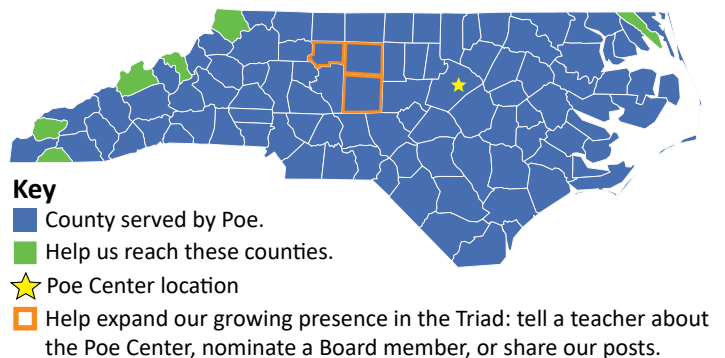

2,208
Programs Taught


77,710
Participants Taught


37
Counties Served


7.5 Million
Social Media Users Reached

- Number of program participants increased **73%**.
- Participation in Poe's high school after-school enrichment program increased by **20%** with **155 regular students**. Twelve high school seniors successfully completed a phlebotomy certificate program.
- Staff supported **152 tobacco merchants** in Wake and Johnston counties in preventing youth access to alcohol and tobacco products.
- **Three new teaching gardens** were created in the community for a total of seven "GrowWELL with Poe" teaching gardens.
- **318 K-5th grade YMCA summer campers** participated in dental health education programming.
- Staff distributed **1,413 medication lock boxes**, **1,676 disposal kits**, **223 cabinet safety locks**.
- **272 youth and community partners** were trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Twelve youth leaders were trained in teen Mental Health First Aid.
- Staff distributed over **200 gun locks** at events as a part of Poe's commitment to prevent firearm-related deaths and injuries.



"Inviting environment, knowledgeable instructor, age-appropriate activities and the amazing playground made it a perfect field trip. We will be back next year!"
- 4th Grade Teacher

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Poe continued its commitment to combating racism and creating a more intentionally inclusive culture for staff and constituents.

- Staff have begun using Poe's newly developed equity rubric to assess programs in terms of access, identities, equity, inclusion, intersectionality, and representation.
- Results of the Poe Center's workplace mental health and well-being assessment resulted in a new staff mental-health subcommittee and a series of staff training days on DEI education, leadership development, and team-building.

*All data up-to-date as of 8/13/2023

Our Impact & Growth

Reset at the MindWELL Garden & Labyrinth

Nestled in the Poe Center's PlayWELL Park, the new MindWELL Garden & Labyrinth was developed to support children's mental health in a peaceful natural setting. The garden features a wheelchair-accessible trail that meanders through a shady garden. Five sensory stations prompt visitors to pause and practice using their senses as a means to help regulate emotions. An activity station in the garden has suggestions for self-care and acts of kindness. PlayWELL Park's annual 20,000 visitors will be able to play and be active, then rest and reset.



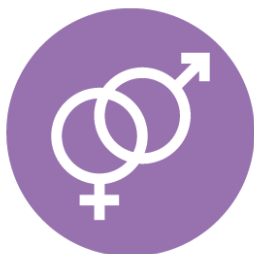
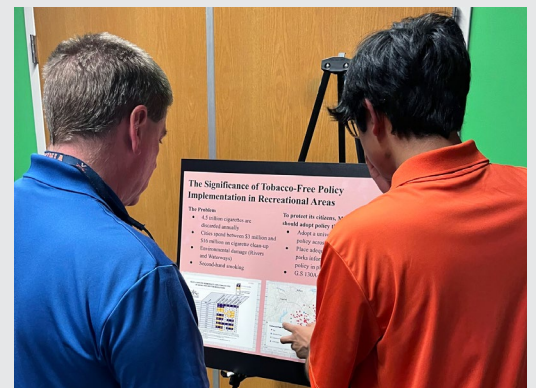
Experience the Poe Universe, Virtual Field Trip Website

Whether program participants come to us or we go to them, everyone now gets to experience the magic of the Poe Center at their convenience. Thanks to the generosity of donors and grants, the Poe Universe uses illustrations and photos of our iconic exhibits to create an immersive online experience designed to supplement health-education programs. Users can learn more about the brain with an augmented reality version of our Cranium Connection, access videos and online activities from within virtual versions of our teaching theaters, take a fruit and veggie selfie, and so much MORE. The Poe Universe has potential to reach over 70,000 users this year.



The Power of Empowered Youth

Twenty-five students participating in Poe's Youth Empowerment groups created nine PhotoVoice projects, held two Tobacco-Free Community Forums, and spoke at two press conferences to share their concerns about youth vaping and the impact of mass advertising and visibility of vapes on their peers. As a result, many town officials followed up and shared their projects. This year, Wake County and two municipalities adopted smoke and vape-free policies. Three municipalities enacted ordinances that restrict outlet density of vape shops including proximity to schools.



The Future for Family Life

Thanks to its first corporate sponsorship and a major foundation gift, Family Life programs are reaching more geographic areas and will undergo a major theater renovation this year. With a continued focus on adolescent development, theater exhibits will be upgraded to align with current program topics, including healthy relationships, values, and communication. Upgrades will also include development of a virtual Family Life theater for Poe's virtual field trip website.

Sharing is caring.
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