



Wadesboro Primary School's Drive to Revive Arbor Day

Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday, March 20, more than 80 fourth graders in Wadesboro will roll up their sleeves and plant a tree. The kids will become members of the Fourth Grade Foresters. The project's goal is to help revitalize a remarkable idea-observation of Arbor Day in American schools. Fourth graders at the Wadesboro Primary School and the Peachland-Polkton Elementary School will receive trees to take home and plant.

Jim Chandler, President of the Wadesboro Lions Club who sponsored the trees, said, "This project was made possible because of community support from the citizens of Wadesboro and Anson County, so there is no cost to the students, teachers, the school, or the taxpayer."

Debra Ersch, cofounder of the Fourth Graders Foresters Project stated, "It's a wonderful way to show support to the community, education and the environment."

Fourth Grade Foresters USA was created to provide a simple and inexpensive way for any individual, business or organization to send the fourth grade students at an elementary school home with a tree of their own to plant and care for. Each fourth grader receives an individual packaged 12"-18" evergreen tree seedling packaged by workers with disabilities. Students who are unable to plant the seedling at their home will be allowed to plant it at the school.

Now tree planning is even more important than ever. Trees take carbon dioxide (CO2) out of the atmosphere and clean the air we breathe. Planting trees is a simple, inexpensive and easy way to improve the community.

The fourth grade students at WPS are pictured above.

Wingate University Picks Rhett Brown as Next President

Wingate University didn't have to go far to find its 10th president. On Wednesday, the University named Rhett Brown, Wingate's current Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Services, as its next leader. Brown is a two-time graduate of Wingate. He takes over for Jerry E. McGee who's retiring in May after a record 23 years at the school. McGee is the longest-service college president in North Carolina.

"I am both deeply humbled and tremendously excited," said Brown, 49, at a mid-morning news conference at Wingate's Ballantyne campus in south Charlotte. "I would like to thank President McGee for his years of visionary leadership to my alma mater. He has left a profound legacy, and I look forward to building on his great work."

Brown has 26 years of experience in higher education. At Wingate, he's served in numerous roles before being named in 2009 to his current position overseeing admissions, student life and marketing.

"Dr. Brown has been a highly respected member of Wingate University's senior leadership team for many years," said Dr. McGee. "I am confident the University will enjoy continued success during his tenure."

During Brown's time at Wingate: Undergraduate enrollment jumped 65 percent in ten years • Net operating revenue from undergraduate enrollment increased while individual student indebtedness decreased • The institutional marketing brand "Major in a Great Life" was launched.

Brown grew up in Pelion, South Carolina southwest of Columbia. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wingate in 1989 and his MBA in 2001. He earned his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Alabama. Brown also served eight years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He spent active duty in Operation Desert Storm and served in Saudi Arabia in 1990-91 during the first Persian Gulf War.

Brown's wife, Nicci, is a graduate of The University of the South and UNC Charlotte. She currently services as registrar, coordinator of institutional research and adjunct instructor at Wingate University. The couple lives in Monroe and they have two children.

Brown was selected after a nationwide search with more than 200 candidates being considered for the position. He will take over as president on June 1, 2015.

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