



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2008

Wake County SmartStart Elects Board Officers

RALEIGH, NC – A new slate of board officers has taken the helm at Wake County SmartStart. Newly-elected board officers include David Zonderman, PhD, as chair, Shanté Martin as vice chair, Donna Rutowski as treasurer and Dale Cousins as secretary. The officers, elected at Wake County SmartStart's December 10, 2008 meeting, will serve two-year terms. "This diverse group of professionals brings valuable experience, strong leadership skills, and an unwavering commitment to the organization's mission of ensuring Wake County's children, birth to age 5, are healthy and prepared for success in school and life," stated immediate past chair Michael Weisel. The Wake County SmartStart board of directors comprises at least 18 members, but no more than 50 members, and includes representatives of public and private nonprofit health and human service agencies, day care providers, the business community, foundations, county and municipal governments, local school districts and families.

David Zonderman, of Cary, is an Associate Professor in the History Department at North Carolina State University. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College and his Master of Arts and Ph.D. from Yale University. Zonderman has been a Wake County SmartStart volunteer since 1998.

Shanté Martin, of Raleigh, is General Counsel with the North Carolina Community College System. Martin is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill where she received both her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Juris Doctor. She has been a volunteer with Wake County SmartStart since 2003.

Donna Rutowski, of Fuquay-Varina, is a human resources professional and active community volunteer. Rutowski has been a volunteer with Wake County SmartStart since 2001.

Dale Cousins, of Raleigh, is a Regional Library Supervisor at Wake County Public Libraries. Cousins, a graduate of North Carolina Central University, has been a Wake County SmartStart volunteer since 1998.

Wake County SmartStart is a non-profit organization that works to ensure every child in Wake County, birth to 5, is prepared for success in school and life. For more information about Wake County SmartStart, its partners or its projects, visit www.wakesmartstart.org or call (919) 851-9550.

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