

**NEWS RELEASE:**

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**More Than 22,500 Students to Participate in Students@Work Initiative Across North Carolina**

*Students@Work Week is March 2-6, 2015*

**Raleigh, NC, March 2, 2015** – North Carolina’s schools and businesses are kicking off the fifth annual Students@Work Week. The goal of the initiative is to raise North Carolina’s graduation rate by offering middle school students a look at future opportunities in the workplace.

Students@Work Week is made possible through a strong partnership between the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. As a result of this collaborative effort, approximately 22,500 middle school students across the state will be taking part in job shadowing and job mentoring programs. “Through this initiative, students will be exposed to a variety of career options they may not have been able to experience otherwise,” said NCBCE Chair André Peek. “This program opens doors for them and provides a vital link between North Carolina’s businesses and many of their future employees.”

More than 100 businesses will take part in this year’s Students@Work program. Their involvement allows students to learn firsthand about careers in fields such as technology, healthcare, the legal system, energy production, biotechnology, hospitality and finance. Some of the programs that will be taking place throughout the week include a tour of the Governor’s plane, interactive science activities, a glimpse inside the Department of Transportation’s video nerve center and computer building and refurbishing.

The Students@Work initiative focuses its efforts on middle school students because middle school is a pivotal point for dropout prevention. “Students@Work serves a vital role in helping to keep our children in school,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson. “Through this program, our state’s businesses are able to show thousands of students firsthand why their education is so important.”

A complete list of participating organizations and more information about Students@Work Week can be found at [www.ncbce.org](http://www.ncbce.org) or contact Robyn Mooring at 919-302-0259 or via email at [RKMproductions@nc.rr.com](mailto:RKMproductions@nc.rr.com).

**About the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE)**

The North Carolina Business Committee for Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit comprised of business leaders from across the state. NCBCE is the leadership organization that connects businesses, educators, students and policy makers to support workforce development ensuring NC has a vibrant economy.

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