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## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**

### **Durham's Partnership for Children to hold 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Celebration, Champions for Young Children Awards Presentation**

Durham, NC – Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, will hold a 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration drawing nearly 250 people to the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club on Thursday, April 15 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The event, with lead sponsorship from **AICPA**, **GlaxoSmithKline** and **Capitol Broadcasting Co.**, will also recognize individuals in nine categories for working to improve the early childhood system in Durham County.

The event, entitled ***Creating Possibilities for Our Young Children's Future***, will feature Dennis W. Bega, Senior Education Advisor with the US Department of Education as keynote speaker. Bega will address school readiness from the national perspective and other educational issues affecting the success of young children through K-12.

"This event will celebrate the systemic changes in early childhood over the last 15 years and the accomplishments of our volunteers, funded partners and board leadership," says Partnership Executive Director Marsha Basloe. "This event also gives us the opportunity to honor individuals in our community who work on behalf of young children and their families and address the challenges we face as we look to the future developing and maintaining early care and education, family support and health programming for Durham's youngest residents."

Durham's Partnership for Children has been working to support quality early childhood education in Durham since 1994. Over the past 15 years, the Partnership has focused on strategies to create systemic change in the child care industry, such as improving the quality of child care, increasing access to child care for low-income working families, and supporting early childhood teacher education.

To review the nomination form online, visit <http://www.dpfc.net/>

#### **About Durham's Partnership for Children**

**Durham's Partnership for Children celebrates 15 years making young children a priority.** Founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County, the Partnership works as an independent, local nonprofit that serves young children birth to age 5 and their families under North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For 15 years, the Partnership has helped working parents pay for child care, improve the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership works to achieve its mission: *To mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful approaches to serving the needs of children birth to age 5 and their families*, by working with funded partners and mobilizing groups and organizations in Durham County to support and coordinate efforts impacting young children and their families. The Partnership also administers the More at Four Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children. For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit [www.dpfc.net](http://www.dpfc.net) or call 919-403-6960, ext 221.

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