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**MOA MEANS BETTER FUTURE FOR HALIFAX COUNTY YOUTH**  
*CISNE and Weldon City Schools bridge the gap between community and education in new initiative*



STAFF PHOTO/Stephanie Duffey  
Dr. Eli Bracy III., Superintendent of Weldon City Schools (center) and (clockwise from left) Rosetta Smith-CISNE Program Coordinator, Diana Mitchell-Director of The Roanoke Center & CISNE Executive Director, Marshall Cherry-VP Member Services & Marketing Roanoke Electric Cooperative, James Williams-Weldon City School Principal and Terry Sledge-Title I/Parent Involvement Coordinator Weldon City Schools come together for the commemorative signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between Weldon City Schools and CISNE.

RICH SQUARE, N.C. – The future just got brighter for students in Weldon thanks to a Memorandum of Agreement between Communities In Schools of the Northeast and Weldon City Schools.

The agreement formalizes a collaborative partnership between Communities In Schools of the Northeast and Weldon City Schools and lays out a comprehensive plan to mentor third graders in reading and prepare them for end of grade exams.

Known as Partnership for School Success or PaSS, the program takes place over a 10-week period and gives Weldon City School third graders the opportunity to engage in a one-on-one mentoring relationship specifically tailored to their needs.

Administered by Communities In Schools of the Northeast, the program also provides volunteers with training to assist them in

meeting those needs. Volunteers who participate in PaSS mentoring will commit one hour each week to work with students and help them prepare for required exams.

“Studies show that students who have a mentor, whether that be in the form of a parent, family member, coach, teacher etc. have a better chance of succeeding academically,” said Rosetta Smith, Program Coordinator for Communities In Schools of the Northeast.

Weldon City Schools and Communities In Schools of the Northeast plan to encourage student achievement by focusing on “Five Basics” of:

- A one on one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A healthy start and a healthy future
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and the community

Smith has met with several leaders in the education community to help assess their respective

needs and is available to discuss the programs, resources and services available through Communities In Schools.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rosetta Smith at 252-539-2236 ext. 280.