

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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THE ROANOKE CENTER, COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF THE  
NORTHEAST AND THE UNITED FAITH COALITION HOST “STARS OF THE  
NORTHEAST LIGHT OUR PATH”

*Spring Gala Awards Banquet to recognize individual and agency “best practices” and raise funds to  
help kids stay in school and prepare for life*



RICH SQUARE, N.C – (April 19, 2007) The Roanoke Center, Communities In Schools of the Northeast and the United Faith Coalition have come together with one goal in mind: helping children stay in school. The three have partnered to host a special fund-raising Gala awards banquet to help raise money for CISNE whose mission is to work collaboratively with schools, agencies and

organizations by connecting community resources to ensure young people stay in school, learn needed skills and prepare them for post secondary education and careers. The community is invited to attend the event scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at Nebo Family Life Center in Murfreesboro with donations benefiting area youth and education.

“UNITED, we can make a difference,” said CISNE Executive Director Diana Mitchell, who explained that the faith community has been very instrumental in supporting the initiatives managed through The Roanoke Center. “The United Faith Coalition is dedicated to the educational and economic well being of our churches, schools and communities,” she said.

CISNE is a three-year old non-profit community based organization that covers 16 counties including Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrell, Warren and Washington. The organization was developed as a result of collaboration between Communities In Schools, Roanoke Economic Development, Inc. and the North Carolina Extension Service. The United Faith Coalition, an alliance of Northampton County churches who are celebrating their third anniversary have decided to commemorate the accomplishment by joining CISNE in their efforts to affect a more positive future for area youth. Former educator and respected role model Dr. Dudley E. Flood of Raleigh will be the featured keynote speaker of the evening.

CISNE Gala Award Categories include:

### Organizational Awards

- **Children, Youth and Families Award** – presented to an entity that has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to meeting specific, measurable needs in the lives of families and children.
- **Technology Innovation & Education Award** – presented to an entity that has creatively used technology to enhance the educational achievement of students in preschool, elementary, middle or high school.
- **Health & Wellness Community Outreach Award** – presented to an entity that has targeted the prevention of diseases most prevalent in the region and can demonstrate the impact of their efforts to make the community healthier.
- **Faith-based Award** – presented to a faith-based institution with a strategic outreach into the community to help improve children, youth and families in the community.
- **Business & Industry Award of Philanthropy** – presented to an entity that has adopted or has a proven record of partnering with a community organization to improve the quality of life of the community.

### Individual Awards

- **Young Bright Star Award** (Ages 12-18) – presented to an individual, age 12-18, who has been proactive in addressing children, youth and family issues through advocacy and community service or CISNE counties eligible for the award.
- **Shining Star Award** (Ages 19-59) – presented to an individual, age 19-59, who has proven to provide outstanding commitment to making a difference in the lives of children, youth, and families in the community and can demonstrate the impact of the service provided. The service has impact that reaches across the nominee's county.
- **Silver Star Award** (Ages 60 and up) – presented to an individual, age 60 and up, who has proven to provide outstanding commitment to making a difference in the lives of children, youth and families in the community and can demonstrate the impact of the service provided. The service has impact that reaches across the nominee's county.

The event is sponsored by Roanoke Electric Cooperative and Dominion North Carolina Power. Tickets can be obtained by contacting The Roanoke Center at 252-539-2236 ext. 280 (Rosetta Smith) or ext. 230 (Diana Mitchell). Donations are \$25 per individual. Table sponsorships are also available.

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### **About The Roanoke Center**

The Roanoke Center, located in Rich Square, N.C., was founded in 2003 and fosters sustainable economic and community development in northeastern North Carolina by addressing the needs of individual citizens and businesses.