

## **NCATA Legislative Activity 2007**

The leadership and members of NCATA have dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort toward reaching our goals, discussing our work with legislators, and helping them better understanding how teacher assistants benefit North Carolina's students and specific concerns shared by teacher assistants across the state.

- In January 2007, less than a week after the legislature reconvened, NCATA President Judy Brant, along with Legislative Committee Chairs Gail Matthews and Lisa Fisher, and Lobbyist Joanne Stevens met with legislators to discuss teacher assistants' work and salaries.
- NCATA Lobbyist and Legislative Chairs monitored activities in the legislature throughout the session and closely watched those specifically related to teacher assistants.
- Rep. Louis Pate, along with Reps. Jeffus, Younge, and Johnson, introduced House Bill 1390, Pay Teacher Assistants at Salary Grade 56, on behalf of teacher assistants and in response to conversations with NCATA leadership. In addition to the four primary sponsors, 55 members of the NC House of Representatives cosponsored this bill.
- NCATA leadership corresponded with members of the NC House and Senate about teacher assistant salaries and the work that we do with students throughout the session.
- NCATA Legislative Committee sent out several Action Alerts to inform members of legislative concerns, asking them to contact legislators, and providing contact information for legislators.
- Legislators were invited to the 25th Annual NCATA Conference and Banquet in May, where they could meet and talk with teacher assistants from across North Carolina.
- A Legislative Overview workshop was presented at the NCATA Conference to allow members to gain a better understanding of the workings of the North Carolina General Assembly, how an idea becomes a law, how to navigate the NCGA web site, and history of the NC legislature.
- NCATA leadership and members called and/or emailed legislators to thank them for supporting teacher assistants.
- NCATA leadership has corresponded with and spoken to teacher assistants, LEAs, the NC Department of Public Instruction, and legislators regarding the interpretation of the legislation on how teacher assistants are paid, and we will continue to work toward a fair, satisfactory resolution of this issue.

Submitted by Lisa Fisher, Legislative Chair 2006-2007

September 16, 2007