



# The Forsyth Promise

Educate | Equip | Engage  
Cradle to Career

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

A lot! Since our last communication, the Executive Team and staff have been working hard with the assistance of StriveTogether to prepare the way for a full launch of our community's cradle to career partnership. The first order of business was to finalize the name, vision, and mission based on all of the great input from community members who participated in the May 2013 Design Institute and the team that worked through the summer and early fall to that end.

We are pleased to announce that the Forsyth County Cradle to Career Partnership is officially known now as The Forsyth Promise and is guided by the following vision and mission:

**Vision:** Every child in Forsyth County receives the best education possible and is fully equipped to thrive throughout life.

**Mission:** The Forsyth Promise supports the success of every child from cradle to career through the development and alignment of community resources.

A logo has been designed to represent The Forsyth Promise and will be unveiled soon, along with a website.

The Executive Team also formally selected United Way of Forsyth County to serve as the "backbone organization" charged with providing fiscal and administrative support for The Forsyth Promise and appointed Dr. Sharee Fowler to serve as The Promise's Partnership Director. Along with Adam Hill, The Promise's Data Analyst located at Forsyth Futures, the staffing for the partnership was rounded out when Crystal Outlaw joined the team as Network Facilitator on March 3, 2014. Learn more about Crystal on page 2.

As you may recall, we have been following StriveTogether's Theory of Action for developing a Cradle to Career Civic Infrastructure. (For more information about the Theory of Action, you can explore an interactive version at <http://www.strivenetwork.org/theory-of-action/exploring>.) In January 2014 the staff completed an intensive assessment to determine our progress in meeting various benchmarks in the Theory of Action. We are excited to announce that based on the results of our assessment, The Forsyth Promise was invited to formally join the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network. The StriveTogether team was quite complementary about our work to this point and even asked if we'd be willing to be contacted by other communities in the early stages of their efforts!

## WHAT'S AHEAD

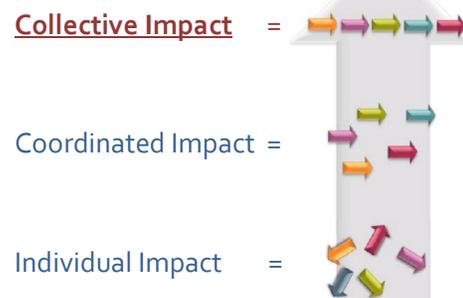
A critical component of The Promise's work is the formation of Collaborative Action Networks. These networks are comprised of cross-sector stakeholders that will develop and implement action plans aligned to The Promise's priority outcomes and indicators. These measures were identified and selected through community feedback over the last year. The Executive Team has identified two priority indicators, early childhood literacy and high school graduation, for initial focus based on a set of criteria that included factors such as significant need, readily accessible data, and existing momentum. Briefing sessions for these new networks will be held **Thursday, April 24th**.

Early Childhood Literacy 8:00-9:15 am  
Smart Start of Forsyth County

High School Graduation 3:00-4:15 pm  
United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church

**To RSVP for one of the briefing sessions, please contact Crystal Outlaw at 336-721-9344 or [crystal.outlaw@uwforyth.org](mailto:crystal.outlaw@uwforyth.org).**

**Our Goal:**  
*Move from Individual Action to Collective Impact*



Additionally, The Forsyth Promise staff team was chosen as one of five from communities across the country to participate in a leadership program for network members sponsored by The Annie E. Casey Foundation and StriveTogether. The 10-month leadership program is designed to support the backbone staff working to build the partnership infrastructure and to accelerate the partnership's progress along the StriveTogether Theory of Action.

Finally, we've been in the process of data collection and analysis for the baseline report to be released in June 2014. The report will be updated annually to report on the partnership's progress in positively impacting the priority outcomes and indicators identified and selected through community feedback over the last year. An Indicators Advisory Team, comprised of local experts representing domains across the cradle to career continuum, also has been assembled to review the data and provide guidance to the staff.

As you can tell, the Executive Team and staff have been working diligently to shore up the partnership's infrastructure and prepare for a full launch. Check out the "What's Next" column to see how you can plug in and join the effort to make the vision of The Forsyth Promise a reality!



Steve Berlin  
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Susie Campbell  
Shelco, Inc.

Jewel Cherry  
Forsyth Technical Community College

Dr. Trae Cotton  
Winston-Salem State University

Dr. Beverly Emory  
WS/FC Schools

Brenda Evans  
United Way Women's Leadership Council

Chris Fox  
Hanesbrands Inc.

Alexandra Gaskins  
Calvary Baptist Church

Cindy Gordineer  
United Way of Forsyth County

Marlon Hunter  
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Dr. Karen McNeil-Miller  
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

Ann Petitjean  
Forsyth Co. Association of Educators

Dr. Eva Phillips  
Ready Schools Initiative (WS/FC Schools)

Rev. Prince Rainey Rivers  
United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church

Dr. Kenneth Simington  
WS/FC Schools

Jill Tackabery  
WS/FC Board of Education

Mari Jo Turner  
Hispanic League

Larry Vellani  
Smart Start of Forsyth County, Inc.

Dudley Watts  
Forsyth County

Rev. Lawrence Womack  
CHANGE

## MEET CRYSTAL OUTLAW!



Crystal Outlaw officially joined The Forsyth Promise as the Network Facilitator on March 3rd. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Crystal moved to Winston-Salem in September 2013. She attended The Pennsylvania State University where she earned a B.A. in Corporate Communications and graduated with a Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in Community Organizing and Social Administration from The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work in 2013. Crystal brings experience with case management, stakeholder facilitation, teaching, mentoring, and civic/community engagement to our team.

## The Forsyth Promise Operations Team

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Please share this communication with others in our community who may be interested in getting involved with this effort!