



## **GATES COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDED \$25,000 RIBBON OF HOPE GRANT**

Gates County Community Partnership (GCCP), a 501(c)(3) public charity based in Gates County, was recently awarded \$25,000 by the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to fund “Opening GATES”, a college readiness initiative for Gates County students. “We are ecstatic for the support promoting higher education in Gates County,” bellowed Brian Rountree, Vice President of Gates County Community Partnership!

The goal of the college readiness initiative is to increase the number of students who obtain a postsecondary certification. Through the programming related to this grant, GCCP will coach college readiness with a focus on influencing and directing the students of Gates County towards a degree from an accredited university. “Opening GATES” will involve rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders from Gates County High School and will fully fund students for a one-week summer enrichment program combining ACT Preparatory Training, youth development and college tours. “Gates County Community Partnership truly lives up to its name by providing quality, innovative programs for the students of Gates County Schools. The Ribbon of Hope grant is an investment in the students and their future goals and aspirations,” stated Dr. Barry Williams, Superintendent of Gates County Schools.

Gates County Community Partnership looks forward to “Opening GATES” and they will engage the community to deliver the highest level of content. “This project directly aligns with our current work and fulfills a local need. There is not a structured program pertaining to college readiness in Gates County; no ACT Prep or college tours,” stated Benjamin C. Saunders, Jr., President of Gates County Community Partnership. “Our students deserve the same advantages as others. We are dedicated to increasing the number of college graduates from Gates County.”

The mission of Gates County Community Partnership ([www.gatescountycp.org](http://www.gatescountycp.org)) is to inspire and increase community engagement by the citizens of Gates County for the educational and social development of its youth.

### **About the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation**

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation is an independent self-funding 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. Since its creation in 1986, the foundation has granted \$75.18 million to support North Carolina projects and programs that emphasize the understanding and application of science, health and education at all academic and professional levels. Visit us at [NCGSKFoundation.org](http://NCGSKFoundation.org).