



# Community Feature

## Board of Commissioners

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 5, 2014

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### **COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE RECENT AWARD WINNERS**

The Wake County Board of Commissioners recognized recent award winners during their meeting today, Monday, May 5, 2014. The awards were from several state and local groups.

#### **North Carolina Tax Collectors Association: Tax Collector of the Year**

Marcus Kinrade has been Wake County revenue director since 2008. In fiscal years 2009 to 2013, under Kinrade's leadership, the County maintained a collection rate above 98.6% each year, with two consecutive years above 99%. Kinrade is known for his significant accomplishments, staff development and cultivation of relationships with professional peers. The North Carolina Tax Collectors Association presents the award annually to an individual who demonstrates leadership and provides outstanding services.

#### **North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program and North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal: NC Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year**

Suzanne LeDoyen is a public health educator in Human Services. Much of her role focuses on childhood injury prevention and ensuring that child safety seats are installed and used correctly in the vehicles of Wake County parents. She serves as vice chair on the NC Child Passenger Safety Training Committee as well as other committees and task forces. The award is presented to those who demonstrate extraordinary dedication to Child Passenger Safety Programs in their community and statewide through community involvement and/or participation in state child passenger safety activities.

#### **Triangle Business Journal: Healthcare Hero**

Dr. Elizabeth Tilson is a pediatrician with Human Services and also works for Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties. In addition to treating individual patients, she works to improve the care for the whole Medicaid population in Wake County and has organized a multi-disciplinary team from Human Services, Environmental Services and Community Care to address environmental triggers for pediatric asthma patients. The Healthcare Heroes awards, sponsored by Triangle Business Journal, celebrate people and groups bringing innovation and compassion to healthcare.

#### **Triangle Business Journal: Healthcare Hero Finalist**

Carla Piedrahita is a bilingual public health educator in Human Services. When she started getting phone calls in 2007 about bed bugs—something she knew little about—she learned as much as she could about them. She began partnerships with Environmental Services, North Carolina State

University, the state, local exterminators and landlords to educate the community about the problem and how to prevent them. As requests for education increased, Carla developed a video in four languages featuring several county employees.

**North Carolina City & County Communicators: First Place in Annual Report Category**

The 2013 Wake County Accomplishments piece is a more concise read than most annual reports and involves the community by including nearly a dozen photographs taken by residents. Many county employees worked hard to put together this informative piece and its innovate design helps to captivate the audience's attention. The North Carolina City & County Communicators' Excellence in Communications Awards honors the best work of its members over the last year.

**North Carolina City & County Communicators: First Place in Special Events Category**

The Wake County Justice Center had its grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting on July 1, 2013. The planning of the opening events and ribbon cutting was a major undertaking. There were hundreds of tasks that needed to be complete to ensure that the event and promotion of the event was a success. The planning was led by the Public Affairs Office and included representatives from several departments as well as employees of the Courts.

**North Carolina City & County Communicators: Second Place in Interview/Talk Show Category**

WakeGOV TV is unique project that provides high-quality information to a wide array of residents throughout the County. WakeGOV TV is a combination of in-studio interviews and field-produced features. It airs on local cable access channels and on the web. The stories are longer than most TV news segments, allowing adequate time for greater detail. The show fills a unique niche, allowing departments and partner agencies to provide joint information to the public.

**North Carolina City & County Communicators: Second Place in Citizen Participation Category**

The Board of Commissioners' number one goal for 2013 was to "Work with the Wake County Public School System on a capital program which will be supported by the citizens and voters of Wake County for a scheduled bond referendum in Fall of 2013." To accomplish the Board's goal, the County and School System needed to educate the voters on why the referendum was needed. The educational effort included everything from media relations to employee communication to WakeGOV TV segments. The bond passed with 58% of voters supporting it.

A comprehensive summary of the awards as well as a video of the presentation can be found at [wakegov.com/commissioners/Pages/meetings.aspx](http://wakegov.com/commissioners/Pages/meetings.aspx).

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