



Presentation to Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

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GOOD TO GREAT

Jim Collins

“GOOD IS THE ENEMY OF GREAT. And that is why we have so little that becomes great. We don’t have great schools, principally because we have good schools. We don’t have great government, principally because we have good government. Few people attain great lives, in large part because it is just so easy to settle for a good life. The vast majority of companies never become great, precisely because the vast majority become quite good—and that is their main problem (p. 1).”



North Carolina Greatness

Focus on the data – the “brutal facts of reality”

- Recognized as a leader nationwide in education
- National Board Certification
 - Ranked #1 in number of teachers certified in 2006 (1525)
 - Ranked #1 in total number of teachers certified (11,325)



Great Challenges

- More than 20,000 dropout events recorded in 2004-2005
 - 1/3 of which occurred in 9th grade
- 54.2% of schools met growth standards
- Geographic location still determines much of the academic success of our students
- North Carolina ranks 23rd in average teacher salary.



North Carolina Leading the Way

- The NEW Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce (December 14, 2006)
 - End high school sooner for most students
 - Invest in early-childhood education
 - Recruit better students to be teachers
 - Put schools under performance contracts
 - Rebuild standards, assessments, and curriculum
 - Make school funding more equitable
 - Support lifelong learning
 - Create regional economic-development authorities



The Road Less Traveled

- "It will take more than higher standards to ensure that North Carolina's high schools graduate students who are prepared to enter the global work force. It will take a change in the schools themselves and a concerted effort to help students achieve the new standards."
- "But no program will succeed unless the public schools, lawmakers and the taxpayers are willing to provide the resources to help students excel."

- Wilmington Star Journal
December 17, 2006



Why we must continue to lead

- “The course of least resistance will be to keep on keeping on, and that's probably what our competition in the rest of the world truly hopes we do.”

- Winston-Salem Journal

December 19, 2006