



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **International Education Conference Features Premier Speakers in Field of International Education**

Charlotte, NC -- Monday, April 9, 2007 -- The inaugural International Education Conference: *Learning & Teaching – A Global Mindset* will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina April 26 and 27, 2007. The event is hosted by the British American School of Charlotte and will take place at TIAA-CREF.

The 2007 International Education Conference is designed to address the need for creating curricula throughout all levels of our school systems based on international education standards. The aim is to ensure that children in the United States are not only competitive in the global environment, but are good global citizens and understand more fully the integrated world that we live in.

Speakers have been selected with the overall theme of international education in mind and also with the goal of offering practical, thought-provoking advice for educators and administrators in all levels of education. Keynote speakers are Jeff Thompson and David Warlick.

Jeff Thompson is very active in the sphere of international education. He directed the Department of Education's involvement in three projects based in Southern Africa: the Secondary Education Support Project in Lesotho, the Secondary Schools Management Development Project in Botswana and the Namibia Open Learning Project. He has been involved in the development of the International Baccalaureate for over thirty-eight years, as Chief Examiner and Curriculum Consultant, Chairman of the Examining Board, member of Executive and Council, and he was Academic Director from 2002-2003. He was Head of the Research Unit for the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) from 2000-2005. He is evaluation consultant for the development of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. He will share an overview of the IB programmes in his keynote and will also conduct a breakout session with Martin Skelton, the Founding Director of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). Martin has spent a lifetime in education including being Principal of two schools. He is now Director of Fieldwork Education and Head of Learning for the WCLS Group in London, England. Their session will focus on curricula for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, continuity in international curricula with a sampler of the world's offerings including both IB and IPC.

David Warlick, a 30-year educator, has been a classroom teacher, district administrator, and staff consultant with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. For the past ten years, David has been the director of The Landmark Project, a web development, consulting, and innovations firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. His web site, Landmarks for Schools, serves more than six million visits a month. David is also the author of three books on instructional technology and 21st century literacy, and has spoken to audiences throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and South America. He will be discussing retooling our classrooms into learning spaces that effectively prepare our children for a future of infinite opportunity, which will require a new story about teaching and learning. It must be a story that is so compelling that we forget about our childhood student experiences from decades ago and agree that a different kind of classroom, teaching, and learning experience is required and deserved by our children. He will map out a story that addresses the global market place and resonates with deeply held values (our children and their future), and points to learning places and learning experiences that are preparing children to become inventive and resourceful life long learners, ready to harness their unpredictable future.

Breakout sessions will be led by organization such as World View at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Asia Society, Coalition for Essential Schools, North Carolina Center for International Understanding, Schools Attuned, World Affairs Council of Charlotte, and the East-West Center of Honolulu, Hawaii.

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The British American School of Charlotte is the driving force of the conference, but has developed a planning committee that incorporates representatives of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte Country Day School, Charlotte Latin School, Johnson C. Smith University and the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

“The level of excitement for the inaugural year of the International Education Conference is beyond our expectations. Speakers from around the world, leaders and thought-shapers in their field, have agreed to share their knowledge with educators in a more intimate environment. It was also a very pleasant surprise to realize the level of offerings in the field of international education available in our own backyard. Since opening the British American School of Charlotte in 2004, we have been pleased to become an involved participant in Charlotte’s education community and this is something we feel a great responsibility in sharing with that community. One of our goals with the conference is to offer methods and opportunities on teaching and learning that give educators and administrators the tools they need to give their classrooms and schools a global perspective and to create a forum for discussion of new techniques and ideas.” says Allan Strange, headmaster, British American School of Charlotte.

The Conference will take place over the course of two days. Thursday, April 26, 2007, site visits at local schools and universities will kickoff the conference and allow speakers and attendees interaction time with students and faculty at pre-selected locations in Charlotte. The evening of Thursday, April 26 will be highlighted by a reception at TIAA-CREF. The focus of the evening will be a discussion of the geopolitical impact of international education.

Friday, April 27, will offer a full day of speakers and breakout sessions on site at TIAA-CREF, located in University Research Park.

Cost for the 2-day conference is \$300.00, which includes food and parking. Space is still available, but limited to 220 attendees. For more detailed information and to register online visit [www.ieccharlotte.com](http://www.ieccharlotte.com).

#### **About the British School of America**

British American School of Charlotte (BASC) is part of The British Schools of America, which were founded in 1998, when the first school opened in Washington D.C. There are British Schools in Boston, Houston, Chicago, and Charlotte. The British Schools of America anticipate an expansion to a total of 20 major cities across the US within the next decade. Pupils at the British Schools of America follow the International Primary Curriculum (IPC), the National Curriculum of England through GCSEs and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB), with an emphasis on earlier reading, broader international orientation, and intensive learning experiences. Teachers at the schools are recruited directly from the UK and are trained in the delivery of the National Curriculum, the IPC and the IB. Please visit our website at [www.britishschool.org](http://www.britishschool.org).

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