

PULSE (Partners for Unparalleled Local Scholastic Excellence), Hartsville

Panelists

Nonprofit: Rainey Knight, Consultant, SC Education Oversight Committee and former Superintendent, Darlington County Schools

Business: Harris DeLoach, Chairman and former CEO, Sonoco

- 1. What, as succinctly as possible, is PULSE working to accomplish?** Provide children from an extremely economically distressed community the middle-class skills they need to function well in society.

- 2. Why – what are the particular challenges PULSE is addressing?** Challenges include children who not only come to school further behind academically from their peers, but those who also have emotional and/or physical impairments. On the other end of the spectrum, Darlington County wanted to ensure our best and brightest students had opportunities to expand their high school experience and class offerings.

- 3. What are the essential, major elements of PULSE, e.g., major education, healthcare, mental health, housing, employment, etc.?**
 - Comprehensive academic excellence program for children community wide, including expanded learning opportunities at elementary and high schools; personal development opportunities; focused professional development for teachers; outreach to parents and families and community partners to support development
 - Implementation of a pilot Comer School Development Program (Yale) focused on improving academic achievement and personal development (Yale University's Child Study Center) at four elementary schools. Comer SDP brings adult community partners together to place student developmental needs at the center of the school's agenda and work together to provide students with developmental activities outside of school.
 - Expanded science, math and language for two high schools under Governor's school for Science and Mathematics
 - Art, design, music, theater and dance programs from Coker College for the two high schools
 - Teacher professional development from Coker College

- 4. What areas/communities does PULSE serve?** PULSE serves all public school students in the Hartsville area.

- 5. Program start date:** 2011-12 school year

- 6. Who is involved – partners?**
 - Darlington County School District

- South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics – will provide enhanced science, math and language classes, e.g., organic chemistry, advanced physics, Mandarin Chinese
- Coker College will provide college credit courses to eligible high school students in such programs as art, design, music, theater and dance.
- Sonoco: \$5 million in funding
- Yale University Child Development Center

7. **What has PULSE accomplished? What successes is PULSE seeing?** Successes seen thus far are:

- increase in students enrolling in Coker classes (on and off the high school campus)
- improved grades of students in these classes
- increase in number of students enrolling in language classes on Hartsville High campus
- increase in number of classes offered through Governor's School offered at Hartsville High campus
- academic success of students in kindergarten through grade 5 in Comer schools
- survey results from teachers and students showing positive results about school and the way they feel about what they can accomplish
- mentoring program for at-risk students created
- Freedom School Summer Program developed