

COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

1st Edition, Vol. 2

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Fresh Paint

Out with the old and in with the new. Resolutions. New beginnings. Goals. Fresh starts. At times, we may feel a bit apprehensive of the unknown, but at others, we dare ourselves to leap into something new and refreshing—a desire to be bold, especially at the beginning of a new year. We turn inward, challenging ourselves to self-assessment and goal setting. *(continued on page 3)*



Empowering Communities Together

The Do School Partners with Piedmont Federal Bank

We are thrilled to announce a new partnership with Piedmont Federal Bank, a community mutual bank that has been dedicated to reinvesting locally since 1903. Piedmont Federal Bank shares The Do School's mission of fostering growth and opportunity within our community. Piedmont Federal Bank's focus on People, Place, and Planet aligns seamlessly with our vision of empowering individuals and strengthening neighborhoods. Through this partnership, Piedmont Federal Bank will provide financial wellness education to our cohort members, offer volunteer support, and connect us with collaborative partners to amplify our impact.

This collaboration highlights ongoing commitment to building strong communities through education, resources, and meaningful relationships. Together, we look forward to creating opportunities that inspire innovation, support financial empowerment, and make a lasting difference. Stay tuned as we share updates on the exciting projects and initiatives this partnership will bring to life in 2025! *✍*

(Suzie Burrow, Director of Marketing at Piedmont Federal contributed to this article)



Community Grant Announcement

Once again we are grateful to announce that The Do School is the recipient of a community grant from The Winston-Salem Foundation. This generous grant award of \$55,000 anchors the position of site superintendent, which is critical to our training model.

*The Winston-Salem Foundation strengthens Forsyth County by inspiring giving and linking resources to action. For more than 100 years, the Foundation has partnered with generous community members to build a better future by providing grants and scholarships to nonprofits, students, and educators. The Foundation is also investing significant resources in advancing equity in education and building an inclusive economy to ensure that Winston-Salem can become a place where race no longer predicts life outcomes. Learn more at wsfoundation.org. *✍**

Message from the Executive Director



THE COMMON GOOD

In these perilous times of information overload, broken promises and untruths, it becomes more necessary than ever that we revisit and honor our narratives of “liberty and justice for all” for many of our fellow citizens who remain in the shadows of inequity—in all of its forms.

Lifting individuals and families into more sustainable approaches to creating value in their lives requires a community effort of agencies contributing from their specific ‘lanes’.

My brothers and sisters, thanks to ALL who have thoughtfully examined the vision and mission of The Do School (TDS) and have seen the possibilities of our dream—a city uniting to solve problems through innovative approaches rather than continuous reliance on catacomb visions!

(Message from ED continued on Page 2)

Graduation Highlights

On December 14th, we recognized our largest class and hosted our largest reception honoring four graduates. This special time was shared by friends, family and community supporters. Founder and Executive Director Jerry Anderson and Board Chair John Lenham greeted our guests. And speaker for the occasion was our own Jake Morgan, site superintendent, teacher, pastor, and mentor, who encouraged everyone in attendance with his inspirational message. Each graduate shared their goals post Do School and received framed program completion certificates. ***Congratulations to Andrea Matthews, Cedric Archie, Robert Cain II and Wesley Hepler on this 20-week training program completion. Update: Wesley has been hired by JM Edwards commercial construction.***



“Because of our mutual commitment to community, economic mobility, and equitable housing solutions, we believe our two organizations have such great alignment that it only makes sense to us to join forces where it makes sense to make a difference in our city.

Ned Erickson, Director of Community Impact
Piedmont Federal Bank

Message from E.D. (continued from Page 1)

New and enduring partnerships with institutions of higher education, industry leaders in banking, donor advised philanthropy, and the MANY other committed businesses and individuals working with TDS in workforce development, count the least educated citizens worthy of sustainable, well-paying jobs. The Do School has ‘taken root’ thanks to these visionary community partners.

We invite other institutions and agencies that provide auxiliary family services to join forces in this new year to strengthen the very foundations of success and equity in our community.

BEST WISHES TO ALL IN THE YEAR AHEAD!!🙏

Very Best Regards,
Jerry W. Anderson
Founder/Executive Director



WSSU/CSEM—TDS Partnership

To produce economic impact report this spring

The Center for the Study of Economic Mobility (CSEM) at Winston-Salem State University has announced a 2025 partnership with the Do School, aimed at assessing the economic impact on participants' lives as well as the ripple effects of the home renovation projects on the surrounding neighborhood.

"We are proud to have the enthusiastic participation of WSSU economics professor Zagros Madjd-Sadjadi, a CSEM Research Fellow," said Dr. Craig Richardson, CSEM's founding director. Madjd-Sadjadi is the former Chief Economist of San Francisco and has tremendous experience with economic impact studies, producing one for WSSU each year. Two strong economics students at WSSU, Chase Stone and Christian White, will join the research team, as CSEM Student Fellows. Both Stone and White have already toured the learning labs and are excited to offer ideas as well as conducting the study.

"The benefits of the Do School go way beyond building skills for their students—they are transforming people's lives as well as improving wealth and prosperity for our African-American community," said Richardson. "We are delighted our economics faculty and student economics majors can help showcase these benefits."

The team will produce an economic impact report in late spring 2025 as well as present their results in early April during WSSU's annual Scholarship week. CSEM is pleased to provide all financial support for this project.

*Craig J. Richardson, Ph.D.
Trust Distinguished Professor of Economics
Founding Director, Center for the Study of Economic Mobility
Winston-Salem State University*

"The number one characteristic of those who will succeed in academics and careers are people who are persistent and who keep struggling. That willingness to struggle is the differentiator between people who succeed."

*Jim Wolfston, CollegeNET Founder/CEO
and Vice Chair of TDS Board*

Fresh Paint (continued from Page 1)

Just as we apply a fresh coat of paint to a new find, or a family heirloom needing a "new life," the same may be applied to the experiences in our lives. At times our own lives may become disappointing, challenging, depressing, and in need of "a fresh coat" of paint. The answer is to remain positive, keep going, and never give up. We will eventually discover that rainbow of new hope, joy, and a sense of accomplishment while creating beautiful memories.

As we enter into another opportunity for new beginnings, I encourage you to think through the changes you desire and the impact you want to make. Decide what color you will use in applying a fresh coat of paint to your next chapter—then step back and appreciate your journey.

Here's hoping your fresh inspirations help you to *THRIVE in 2025!*

Willette Mosby-Reynolds

NEW Donation Option—Stock Gifts

The Do School now has a brokerage account to process gifts of securities. The brokerage account is through **Robert W Baird & Company**, and the contact is Jeff Trollinger.

For more information on this and other ways to make donations, please visit our website: www.thedo-school.org/donate.

Progress at Learning Lab #3

Rehab work has taken place front, back, interior & exterior at the learning lab. Photos below show the live learning experience: new deck added to rear of house, the front porch redo, vinyl siding installed and drywall installed.



LL3: House and Garage BEFORE (above) and CURRENTLY (to the left and below).



THE END