



**For Immediate Release
January 31, 2006**

Moore County, NC

Education Quotient™ is High for Moore County Schools

As its latest accolade, Moore County can now boast that it has a high Education Quotient™ (EQ). Not to be confused with an IQ, or Intelligence Quotient, the EQ doesn't reflect an individual's cognitive ability, but it does give a company considering relocation to Moore County a way to evaluate the education system and potential workforce here.

Created by *Expansion Management* magazine, the Education Quotient™ compares school districts nationwide as a way to rate the quality of the future workforce in those communities. Based on the premise that "today's students are tomorrow's workforce", the EQ provides one way to answer the question, "How well are we educating our future workers?" For Moore County's public school system, the answer seems to be that we are doing a good job.

In its December 2005 issue, *Expansion Management* released the EQ scores it calculated for 2,800 school districts nationwide, including 22 of North Carolina's 117 districts. The magazine evaluated only those districts having a total enrollment of 3,300 or more students. Moore County's district has over 12,000 students enrolled.

How did Moore County's public school system rank? On a scale of 1 to 99 with 99 being the best, Moore County's public school system got an EQ score of 76, ranking it in the top 33% nationwide. Of the school districts evaluated in North Carolina, Moore County was third behind Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools and Wake County Schools.

The EQ score was calculated based on three weighted factors: the Graduate Outcome (GO), the Resource Index (RI) and the Community Index (CI). All three looked at both the given school district as well as the overall community.

The GO, the most heavily weighted factor, looks at graduation rates and college entrance exam scores to quantify the quality of the district's graduates. Weighted less than the GO, the RI measures the amount a district spends for public education,

**P.O. Box 5885
Pinehurst, North Carolina 28374-5885**
Phone (910) 246-0311 Toll Free 800-461-3755 Fax (910) 246-0312
Email: econdev@moorebusiness.org Website: www.moorebusiness.org

Page 2

including teachers' salaries and per-student expenditures. Finally, the CI is weighted the least and serves as a benchmark for the economic status and educational attainment of the community's adult population.

What this score ultimately suggests about Moore County is that 1) our public schools are providing a quality education and graduating a high percentage of high school students, and 2) that the County is financially committed to its schools. And what this tells prospective businesses and industries is that they can anticipate having an educated workforce pool here that will meet their employment needs.

"Every time a business or industry is potentially interested in locating in Moore County, Partners in Progress is quick to point out the County's first-class public school system", said Ray Ogden, Executive Director of Moore County Partners in Progress. "In addition to our schools consistently achieving high ratings on various performance measures such as average SAT scores, the Education Quotient™ is now one more indicator that our schools have the right components for successfully preparing our future workers."

Dr. Susan Purser, Superintendent of Moore County Schools, said, "The best indicator of the quality of our schools is what I see taking place each day in the classrooms, and *Expansion Magazine's* Education Quotient™ certainly reinforces the results of this daily diligence and hard work. However, it also confirms the tremendous support we receive for our schools and the commitment of everyone in this county to assure our students get the best education possible so they can successfully meet the challenges of a 21st century global market."

Ogden added, "The bottom line is that a strong educational system is such a critical part of successful economic development. Companies considering relocation are attracted to communities whose labor force is well-educated and trained, which is definitely a competitive advantage. Partners in Progress will continue to make sure that prospective businesses and industries are aware of what an asset our school system is."

Expansion Management's article "2005 Education Quotient™: How Well Are We Educating Our Future Workers" can be accessed online at www.expansionmanagement.com. Partners in Progress is the non-profit economic development organization representing all of Moore County. For more information, visit www.moorebusiness.org.

Contacts:

Expansion Management magazine, www.expansionmanagement.com
Ray Ogden, Executive Director, Partners in Progress: 910-246-0311