

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hoke County, North Carolina Teacher Named Regional Head Start Teacher of the Year

Laurinburg, NC – February 24, 2014 — Marcus Rouse, a Head Start teacher at Hoke Head Start Center in Raeford, North Carolina, has been named the 2014 Teacher of the Year by the Region IV Head Start Association, Inc. (RIVHSA). Rouse was selected by a judging committee for his excellence in classroom education, best classroom practices, and the overall impact he has made on the program and in the community. “My teaching method is to work outside of the box of learning to bring education to life and have fun while doing it. If it means to go above and beyond then that’s what I must do,” stated Rouse. Rouse was honored as the 2014 Teacher of the Year during RIVHSA’s annual conference on February 7, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia. Throughout the region Head Start serves 157,579 children.

RIVHSA, an affiliate of the National Head Start Association, is a professional organization that serves as an advocate for Head Start children, parents, and staff in eight (8) southeastern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee). RIVHSA’s mission is to serve as a clearinghouse to its grantees and affiliate groups by providing resources, technical assistance, and training to promote the delivery of quality services. In addition to the Teacher of the Year Award, RIVHSA honors a Humanitarian of the Year and a Parent of the Year.

Hoke Head Start Center is funded and managed by Four-County Community Services, Inc. Rouse was hired by Four-County as an Assistant Teacher in 2004. In 2011, Rouse was promoted to an Associate Teacher. Over the years, Rouse’s teaching method has been noticeably impactful. “As the Executive Director, it was quite an honor to personally witness Mr. Rouse accepting his award in Atlanta. Teachers having an impact on children are crucial to bringing out the very best outcomes in communities and we are proud to employ such an exceptional talent. Four-County thrives off of holistically serving children, families, and communities,” stated Ericka J. Whitaker, Executive Director of Four-County Community, Services, Inc. Prior to teaching, Rouse volunteered at Hoke Head Start Center while his children were enrolled in the program. Rouse earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Early Childhood Education and Teaching from Ashford University in 2012, and an Associate of Applied Science-Early Childhood from Robeson Community College in 2009.

About Four-County Community Services, Inc.

Four-County Community Services, Inc. is a federally funded nonprofit organization located in Laurinburg, North Carolina serving low income residents in seven neighboring counties for nearly 50 years. The organization has over 200 employees and an approximate annual budget of \$13 million utilized to operate and manage 16 Head Start schools, a weatherization program, section 8 housing, and other programs involving workforce readiness, economic development, and self-sufficiency.

To learn more about Four-County you may visit <http://www.4ccs.org/> and follow them on Facebook.

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