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Northern Company Brings Technology To Overhills

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Harnett County News Editor

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Representatives of a Pennsylvania company made a trip to Overhills Middle School in western Harnett County to present a check to purchase technology they hope is going to train students for new technology jobs.

Representatives of the Concurrent Technology Corporation were on hand to present Overhills Principal Joan Wicker and her staff a check for \$5,000.

The check will be used to purchase computerized Smartboards, which are interactive, computerized boards placed in the front of classrooms.

The whiteboards allow both students to actively involve themselves with lesson plans using a variety of software and hardware products

Concurrent Technology, a non-profit foundation that focuses on research and development, is centered in Pennsylvania, but has a Fayetteville office. Officials said it was their first such grant which they see as something that will help the students and can also benefit them.

"You may be teaching the people we are going to hire in the future," Concurrent Technologies Director of Asymmetrical Threat Mitigation George McAllister said.

"Your students may be the future of our company and we want to help them any way we can. Our ultimate reward in this will come when we see these kids graduate from UNC or another college or university."

The Smartboard systems are already in place in all the high schools in the county. The money at Overhills Middle will be used for systems to be installed in each of the core curriculum classrooms.

Ms. Wicker said the new equipment is part of a larger goal at her school of expanding student horizons. "We want our students to realize there is more in the world than just what they see every day," she said. "We want to start making dreams come true and we think this equipment will help us do that." She said it isn't only the students who are going to benefit from the new technology. "Our young teachers thrive on this technology," she said. "We think this will help the teachers do their jobs better."

Harnett County Schools Community Schools Coordinator Patricia Harmon Lewis said she hopes the corporate donation sets an example. "This is a business partnership working at its best," she said. "A company has responded to support our kids which is what we like to see."

"We are fortunate to have a donation like this for our students," Superintendent Dan Honeycutt said.

"It is something that is much- needed in all our classrooms."

