March 25, 2015 - Bob Ingram, North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Chairman welcomed community leaders and grantees from across the state to the annual report luncheon, celebrating the Foundation’s support for programs that promote science, health and education in North Carolina.

Ingram remembered long-time board member W. Robert Connor who retired from the board after twenty years of service at the end of last year. Ingram noted Bob’s strong work ethic, sound judgment, and philosophical approach over the years has been extremely valuable as well as his engaging conversations. The Foundation welcomed Mark Werner and Ran Coble to the board in 2014.

Ingram reported that The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation noted several milestones in 2014:

- Awarding the 100th Ribbon of Hope grant
- Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Child Health Recognition Awards program, and
- The Foundation topped $64 million in grant commitments

Marilyn Foote-Hudson, Executive Director for the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation continued the program highlighting progress that since 2008, 100 grants to nonprofits across the state have been awarded under the Ribbon of Hope program – placing $2.5 million into county programs in North Carolina.

Marilyn noted several Ribbon of Hope grants:

- The “Literacy for All” project at the Brunswick County Literacy Council.
- The Catawba County Parenting Network, working to build healthy relationships between parents and children.
- The Families First organization in Columbus County educating 9th graders about “Safe Dates”, raising awareness about unhealthy dating relationships.
• Emerging Leaders Program in Mecklenburg County helps adults reach a higher potential in work, school and at home.
• Prevent Blindness North Carolina’s “Star Pupils” provides young children with early vision screening.
• Wake County Read and Feed creates an appetite for reading in disadvantaged elementary school children and their families by offering evening meals and books.
• And in New Hanover County 3rd graders can reach for the stars without leaving their classrooms, as the Cape Fear Museum Associates are using a Ribbon of Hope grant for a new portable planetarium, which allows students to explore the solar system and experience astronomy in their own schools.

Traditional grants include the Julius L. Chambers Visiting Scientist Program at North Carolina Central University. The newest phase of the College STAR program, this time at Fayetteville State University – the BRONCO STAR.

Another new grant works with military families with the need for mental and emotional health support, the Family Coping and Resilience Program at the Center for Child and Family Health, a community-based nonprofit collaborative of Duke University, North Carolina Central University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Several multi-year grants that continued in 2014 that are having an impact on science, health and education in our state:
• The Museum of Life and Science
• North Carolina A&T State University
• North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research
• North Carolina Central University
• North Carolina Museum of Art
• North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Foundation
• Public School Forum of North Carolina
• North Carolina Museum of Natural Science
• The University of North Carolina General Administration
• And the University of North Carolina Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

Marilyn announced that the Board approved four new Ribbon of Hope grants going to:
• North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals
• Special Olympics North Carolina, Inc.
• The Down East Partnership for Children
• Graham Children's Health Services
The luncheon keynote Chris Kromm the Executive Director of the Institute for Southern Studies, presented “As The South Goes” highlighting growth in the South, the political importance of that growth and the impact to the economy. The keynote highlighted valuable information and if you have not had the opportunity to hear from Chris you are encouraged to visit his website at www.southernstudies.org to learn more about the many issues that matter the most to our communities in the South.

For more information about the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation please visit annual report at www.ncgskfoundation.org our website.