Robert A. Ingram, North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Chairman, welcomed community leaders and grantees from across the state to the annual report luncheon, which celebrated another year of the Foundation’s support for programs that promote health, science and education in North Carolina. Ingram announced the appointment of Mark Werner to the board and thanked Werner for his many years of service as legal counsel. Ingram welcomed Adrianna Carter who will serve as the board’s new legal counsel.

Ingram remembered long-time board member Julius Chambers, who passed away in August. He highlighted Chambers’ inspiration, determination and lifelong crusade for civil rights for everyone and as a board member. “Julius enriched our Board of Directors with his profound dedication to education, deep understanding of human nature and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of every child in the state. We miss his wise counsel” stated Ingram.

Ingram also recognized Ran Coble, Executive Director of the NC Center for Public Policy Research as a long time friend and advocate for the state. He noted Coble’s tireless leadership regarding policy issues that affect the citizens of North Carolina, stating “Ran has an incredible legacy in the state.” Ran Coble has announced his plans to retire as executive director for the Center in September.

Ran Coble touching his heart in response to Ingram’s tribute, as Coble was recognized for 33 years of service to the citizens of North Carolina.
Chairman Ingram announced the approval of five new Ribbon of Hope grants:

- Families First of Columbus County
- Read and Feed of Wake County
- News Leaders of Mecklenburg County
- Prevent Blindness North Carolina of Wake County
- The Brunswick County Literacy Council

Marilyn Foote-Hudson, Executive Director for the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation continued the program with highlights from 2013. Foote-Hudson shared details of several grant recipients:

“In the mountains, McDowell County first-graders are having fun spotting and documenting birds while on the other side of the state, in Dare County fifth-graders are exploring and measuring ecosystems on the coast. The projects are in place with the NC Arboretum and the NC Aquariums, and supported by Ribbon of Hope grants. A grant with the Greensboro Children’s Museum grabs the attention of students with a popular exhibit called ‘Gizmos and Gadgets.’ In the area of health, a grant is supporting the Little Pink Houses of Hope, an organization that offers retreats to cancer patients and survivors.”

“Reaching out into Rowan County, the Old North State Dental Society will offer a free dental clinic this fall that is expected to reach more than 1,000 residents who have little or no access to dental care. And a grant to Elon University to support the Elon Academy Study Away program will take high-achieving, low-income students to Washington, DC, for the chance to experience a new place, gain leadership skills and develop an active sense of social responsibility. Ribbon of Hope grants are working across the state to enhance health, science and education.”

“A traditional grant is allowing the Museum of Life and Science in Durham to create adventures like a tree house village, a woodland stream, canyons and earth moving exhibits all designed to teach children about science. And at the National Humanities Center, the Center will upgrade its online resources to interactive, user-paced e-learning modules supporting teachers.”

Foote-Hudson continued and highlighted the following:

- the North Carolina A&T State University, STEM Center of Excellence for Active Learning
- North Carolina Central University, STEM grant
- North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Foundation, Step Up to STEM enrichment program
- Public School Forum of North Carolina, to help fund an afterschool STEM System-Building Plan through the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs
- North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, aging population focus
- North Carolina Museum of Natural Science, Nature Research Center
- North Carolina Museum of Art, The Big Picture
- University of North Carolina Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, Science Festival program
- and the University of North Carolina General Administration, College STAR program.

East Carolina University, Project STEPP director Dr. Sarah Williams.

The luncheon keynote, Dr. Sarah Williams is the Principal Investigator for the College STAR program. College STAR stands for Supporting Transition, Access and Retention for students with learning differences. It is a UNC system initiative designed to help campuses create educational environments that are welcoming for students who have different approaches to learning. Dr. Williams shared the value of the program and the excellent success rates achieved as the program is thriving on the East Carolina University, UNC-Greensboro and Appalachian State University campuses.

NC Museum of Art Caterri Woodrum sharing the latest events at the Museum with North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation board member Janice Whitaker.
(left to right) Robert A. Ingram greets Durham County commissioner Brenda Howerton and NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation board member Shirley T. Frye.

Robert A. Ingram conveys his appreciation to NC Senator Mike Woodard for his service to North Carolina.

NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation President Margaret Dardess discussing succession planning with Ran Coble Executive Director of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research.
NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation board member Thomas R. Haber enjoys hearing about the “Science Festival” activities from Jeff Hill, director of advancement, Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, UNC at Chapel Hill.

(Standing) Dr. Goldie Bryd, dean College of Arts and Sciences at NC A&T State University shares the latest achievements with the STEM Center of Excellence at NC A&T State University with (left) Foundation executive director Marilyn Foote-Hudson, and NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation board member Shirley T. Frye (right).

For more information about the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation please see our webpages.