The Alliance of North Carolina Black Elected Officials will kick off the eighth annual NC Black Summit on Thursday, April 25 at the North Raleigh Hilton, located at 3415 Forest Road in Raleigh.

The three-day event, scheduled April 25-27, is titled “Technology and its Impact on Job Creation.” The Summit will focus on the impact of technology on education, economic development and government efficiency. Alliance President Fred Yates, who also is mayor of Winfall, says that the technology gap is a major issue facing the minority communities. Through the Summit, Yates says, the Alliance hopes to share important information about developing technologies and how they can be used to spur growth and development in minority communities.

“The disparity in minority access to technology is an issue that will continue to chip away at the ability of minority communities to keep pace educationally and economically,” he says.

Brad Thompson, executive director of the Alliance, says that this year’s agenda will not only focus on technology issues, but voting rights and other pertinent issues faced by Black North Carolinians. The agenda will again feature the interactive breakout sessions that have become the Summit’s trademark.

“Each year nearly 300 of us have gathered in Raleigh for the NC Black Summit. Whether it is the health-care plan, redistricting, voter suppression initiatives, fairness in the death penalty, or promoting more jobs for low-income people, the Alliance has been there as a voice and agent of change,” he says.

Thompson says that what draws people back year after year is that each participant is respected regardless of his or her office or position in the community. “What the attendees respect most are the good ideas.”

The Summit will kick off Thursday evening with a reception featuring food, fun and entertainment. “This reception gives us an opportunity to network and gear up for the rigorous agenda on Friday and Saturday,” he says.

For more information or to register visit www.ncblack-summit.org.

Early bird registration is $149 and has been extended to April 15. “We want to make this event accessible to all wish to participate,” says Thompson. “So we want to give attendees as much time as possible to register at the best possible price.” Regular registration is $175 and will run from April 15-24. Onsite registration is $199. Special registration prices are available for students and spouses of attendees.

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**Exposé’ Views How Charter Schools Exclude Unwanted Children**

By dianerav

February 18, 2013

Stephanie B. Simon, investigative reporter for Reuters, has written a stunning exposé of the many ways that charter schools exclude kids who might drag down their test scores.

Getting admitted to a charter school, she writes, can be a “grueling experience.”

Examples: “Students may be asked to submit a 15-page typed research paper, an original short story, or a handwritten essay on the historical figure they would like to meet. There are interviews. Exams. And pages of questions for parents to answer, including: How do you intend to help this school if we admit your son or daughter?”

And this: “Thousands of charter schools don’t provide subsidized lunches, putting them out of reach for families in poverty. Hundreds mandate that parents spend hours doing ‘volunteer’ work for the school or risk losing their child’s seat.

“In one extreme example the Cambridge Lakes Charter School in Pingree Grove, Ill., mandates that each student’s family invest in the company that built the school—a practice the state said it would investigate after inquiries from Reuters.”

And there is much more. Read it. Then ask, are these public schools or private schools subsidized with public money?

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