



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL SPEAKER TO VISIT BURKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS

Rick Stoddard, a nationally renowned tobacco prevention speaker, will visit Burke County schools February 4. Stoddard, whose message about the loss of his wife to smoking-related cancer, has touched the lives of thousands of teens across the country. He will bring his passionate presentation--“The Burning Truth”-- to all-school assemblies at Patton, Freedom and East Burke High Schools. Stoddard’s visit is sponsored by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund and its Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation grant, one of which is administered by Blue Ridge HealthCare.

“We are excited to host Rick as he brings unfiltered reality about tobacco danger to the youth of Burke County,” said Camille Welch, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator at Blue Ridge HealthCare. “It’s very important that our young people continue to get the message that being tobacco-free is the best choice for them.”

Speaking Schedule for Rick Stoddard:

8:10-9:10 a.m.– Patton High School
10:15-11:15 a.m. – Freedom High School
1:30-2:30 p.m. – East Burke High School

For more information about Rick Stoddard, please visit www.rickstoddard.com

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina’s share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested millions to support preventive health initiatives including teen and college tobacco use prevention, health disparities, obesity and a medication assistance program for senior citizens.

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