

May 2015
BUILD'S Pre-Conference at the National Smart Start Conference
Toward Racial Equality: What Are We Learning?

Dr. Denauvo M. Robinson
Albemarle Smart Start Partnership

About Our Community:

The Albemarle Smart Start Partnership is part of North Carolina's statewide Smart Start initiative to work with children, zero to five, their families and child care providers. We are located in Northeastern North Carolina, and serve five extremely rural counties (Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Gates, and Pasquotank). One of our counties has two traffic lights (the second light is less than two years ago) and county has only one. Two of our counties do not have a nationally franchised fast food restaurant (MacDonald's or Burger King) or a chain food market (Food Lion, Farm Fresh). Four of our counties do not have a movie theatre, bowling alley or fine arts facilities. Three of our counties do not have any form of a mass transportation system. All of our counties have a growing Hispanic population, high unemployment, high poverty rates, low to medium performing public school systems, high teen pregnancy rates, and many health disparities.

The racial demographics for our region are as follows: Black 33%, White 61%, Hispanic 3%, other 3%. It is very interesting that 49% are males and 51% are females.

About Albemarle Smart Start Partnership/Presentation for BUILD:

- How to identify stake holders
- Conducting a needs assessment
- Creating opportunities for discussion
- Creating opportunities for collaboration
- Changing policies and procedures
- Suggestions on how to sustain the work

Moving toward "Race Equity" must be more than a written concept and a discussion item. We must embrace it in our actions and support the positive actions of others.