



The Lost Colony, 1409 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954 www.thelostcolony.org

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Lost Colony Met with NC First Lady

– Announced News of Drama's Anniversary and Educational Endeavors –



Recently, NC First Lady Mary Easley met with *Lost Colony* friends and supporters. They announced to her a new educational program titled "Educate North Carolina". (from left to right) Sarah Keating, Superintendent of Dare County Schools Dr. Sue Burgess, Board Member Marjalene Thomas, First Lady Mary Easley, Board Member Cindy McEnery, Board Chair John Tucker, Executive Director/Producer Carl Curnutte V. Curnutte III, and Board Member Judy Easley. This season marks the 70 anniversary of the NC drama. (photo courtesy of *The Lost Colony*)

(Manteo, N.C., April 29, 2007) – The First Lady of North Carolina Mary Easley met friends and supporters of the state's first and longest running outdoor drama *The Lost Colony* this week. The gathering recognized the drama's 70th anniversary season and highlighted plans for their new educational endeavor Educate North Carolina.

"The Lost Colony is a North Carolina tradition that generations have learned from and enjoyed," said First Lady Mary Easley. "I commend the Lost Colony for developing Educate North Carolina to give many students who may never visit Waterside Theatre another way to experience the history and the magic of our nation's longest running outdoor drama."

Even before the drama's opening, *The Lost Colony* story brought innovation to education. In

1921 Mabel Evans Jones, a North Carolina native

and Superintendent of Dare County Schools, produced a motion picture about the lost colonists that was shown in cities, towns and rural communities by the State Department of Public Instruction. *The Lost Colony's* new Educate North Carolina program seeks to build on this tradition.

Since it first opened in 1937 *The Lost Colony* has entertained and educated millions of visitors from across the nation. *The Lost Colony* jumpstarted tourism on the Outer Banks, brought national attention to the history and talents of North Carolina, and has become a cultural icon of the area.

Using theatrical elements such as music, puppetry and drama, Educate North Carolina will take students through centuries of North Carolina history, from prehistoric times to present day. Actors will present the multimedia program that features interactive components, an internet-based educational Web site and classroom guides.

The Educate North Carolina program is sponsored by IBM, Vital Source and Lenovo. It will premier in the Dare County School system before the state-wide launch.

About The Lost Colony

First staged in 1937, *The Lost Colony* tells the real-life story of America's "lost colony" of men, women and children who sailed from Plymouth, England, in 1587 to establish an English colony on Roanoke Island (N.C.). Predating Jamestown by 22 years and Plymouth by 35 years, the settlement disappeared with hardly a trace, leaving historians and archaeologists with a mystery that has never been solved.

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green, *The Lost Colony's* 70th anniversary season opens June 1 and plays nightly except Sunday through Aug. 20, 2007 at Manteo's Waterside Theatre, on North Carolina's Outer Banks. It is the nation's premier and longest-running symphonic drama.

For tickets and information, go to www.thelostcolony.org or call (252) 473-2127 or (252) 473-3414 (May through August).

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