

Thank you for coming tonight.

As we conclude, I would like to acknowledge and thank EVERYONE in this room for taking time out of your evening to help us raise awareness for the one in five. Tonight I would like to single out one extraordinary woman who we consider a dyslexia warrior. This year we will give out our first annual Dyslexia Warrior Award. A dyslexia warrior is someone who advocates RELENTLESSLY for the good of all dyslexic students on a local, state and national level.

Our DW joined DDNC in 2014 and quickly took the lead on our social media making sure that followers are up to date on the latest news.

She successfully urged the New Hanover County library to put up displays for dyslexia awareness month.

She has requested and successfully gotten the Governor to Proclaim October as Dyslexia Awareness Month for THREE YEARS in a row. She has done the same for the City of Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach AGAIN: THREE TIMES IN A ROW!

This person was an advisor on former State Superintendent's June Atkinson: Parent Advisory Committee.

Our DW single-handedly wrote the NC PTA Dyslexia Resolution and got them to pass it. When the NC PTA asked her to be on the board, she humbly said no that she needed to focus on dyslexia.

She has been on the news in Wilmington discussing the READ Act and Dyslexia Awareness Month.

This woman traveled to DC in 2016 to advocate for dyslexic students by knocking on Senator's doors and sharing her story as well as statistics.

She has met with her state Senator, his staff and drafted a screening bill for North Carolina.

Our DW recently met with our new State Superintendent Mark Johnson to discuss the needs of dyslexic children in NC schools.

She inspired Erin Brockovich (who is dyslexic) to speak at her son's school on a recent visit to Wilmington.

This woman does the small things too. She has painted the rocks and chalked the sidewalk at UNCW for dyslexia awareness month. She even had a #saydyslexia necklace made in the shape of our state and gave them out as a gifts.

Lastly, she is a single mother of an amazing and talented young man who I know is her greatest pride and joy.

Please join me in honoring Lisa Eakins. :)