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## **One Economy Honors Youth Technology Leader** 2007 Lisa Y. Sullivan Award Winner Helped Spread Technology in His North Carolina Community

WASHINGTON -- The One Economy Corporation has recognized Dennis Saunders, a graduating senior from Windsor, North Carolina, as the 2007 Lisa Y. Sullivan Horizons Award winner. As one of the first graduates of the Digital Connector program at the Bertie County Family Resource Center, Dennis epitomizes the spirit of leadership and service this award honors.

As an active volunteer at the family resource center, and other local daycare and senior citizen centers, Dennis emerged as a leader among his peers. He has also volunteered his time at Habitat for Humanity, where he helped install computers in Habitat homes. A talented artist, Dennis combined his artistic ability with his knowledge of technology to design the logo for the Annual Tech-no Jamboree hosted by the Bertie County Digital Connectors.

Tiffanee Navarro, Beehive coordinator at the resource center, says of Dennis, "I have known Dennis practically all his life ... I knew Dennis was a well-mannered young man, but what I didn't know was that he possessed the skills to organize his peers and motivate them to use the resources that are available to them to make projects successful."

Dennis graduated this year from Bertie County High School, where he was a member of the varsity track and football teams. Dennis is now a freshman at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount North Carolina, and has plans to pursue a degree in computer technology and graphic art.

Dennis was a part of a team of youth who received training and participated in community service opportunities in the areas of technology instruction, technical support, digital media, marketing, workforce readiness and leadership development. Armed with these skills, Digital Connectors become technology ambassadors for their communities. In Bertie County, they are critical to helping community members adopt new technology in an area where only one in four residents has broadband Internet access—half the national average.

"Dennis's leadership is an inspiration," said Sonja Murray, One Economy Corporation vice president. "His service to Bertie County demonstrates the powerful effect the combination of energy, innovative technology, and commitment can have on a community."

In memory of Lisa Sullivan, youth advocate and One Economy founding board member, this award honors exceptional youth who use technology to transform low-income communities. The award was presented last week at One Economy's annual gala, a celebration of seven years of using technology to help low-income people enter the economic mainstream. Visit [www.one-economy.com](http://www.one-economy.com) to view video from gala, and a message from the evening's key sponsor, the Allstate Corporation.

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**One Economy Corporation** is a global nonprofit organization that uses innovative approaches to deliver the power of technology and information to low-income people, giving them valuable tools for building better lives and entering the economic mainstream. We help bring [broadband into the homes](#) of low-income people, [employ youth](#) to train their community members to use technology



effectively, and provide [socially responsible media properties](#) that offer a wealth of information on education, jobs, health care and other vital issues.

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**Dennis Saunders**