

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES DROUGHT MASCOT IS "CONSERVIN' IRVIN"**  
*Exceptional Education Class in Sanford Wins Statewide Contest*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Deep River Elementary School in Sanford is the winner of the statewide contest to name the new mascot for North Carolina's drought education campaign. The winning name, "Conservin' Irvin," came from Jane Patterson's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Exceptional Education Class at the school.

"I congratulate Ms. Patterson and her students for choosing a name that is perfect for our *SaveWaterNC* mascot," said Easley. "We learned from this drought that everyone in North Carolina needs to use water wisely, and that means conserving, just like Conservin' Irvin does."

In mid-April, Easley asked North Carolina's elementary school students to suggest names for the new mascot and 829 elementary school classes sent in their entries. The winning name was selected by a committee of employees from the Department of Environment & Natural Resources and the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety, who are the lead agencies for drought management and response. Today at the school, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Bill Ross and Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Bryan Beatty presented the class with a certificate signed by the governor and a banner congratulating the class for winning the contest.

The mascot will be featured on the [www.SaveWaterNC.org](http://www.SaveWaterNC.org) web site and in all future drought education materials. The web site includes information regarding the state's drought status, frequently asked questions about the drought, classroom materials for teachers, a kids' page and water conservation tips for residents, businesses and others.

The mascot naming contest follows the governor's announcement in March of his proposed legislation to make North Carolina drought proof. That legislation is currently under consideration by the General Assembly.

[Click here for a photo of the winners!](#)



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