



# The Governor's School OF NORTH CAROLINA

A Summer Program for Academically or Intellectually Gifted High School Students

July 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Dave Chameides as a speaker on environmental sustainability. "Sustainable Dave" has visited the campus of the North Carolina Governor's School for two summers in a row, and both times he has spurred our hundreds of gifted high school students not only to reflect on their personal responsibility to each other and to our planet, but to act on it as well.

We invite many speakers to our campus each summer, but Chameides is unique in his ability to engage young listeners. He has a great energy and rapport with a teen audience without compromising the substance of his message. Our campus-wide speakers all have distinguished credentials or life experiences, but Chameides was one of the most popular in our end-of-session survey, with 95% rating him "good" or "outstanding." Our students have many required events and so their attitude toward them is always a good indicator of engagement, and about 40 of our 300 students stayed after Chameides' talk to continue asking questions and conversing with him for another 90 minutes! It shows his graciousness and fortitude that he was willing, after an overnight flight, another speaking engagement the night before, and leading a seminar and a class earlier in the day, to stay and talk with the students for as long as they wanted. Many of them asked for further advice on ways they can effect change in their families, high schools, and hometowns, and we were heartened to see that Chameides' message of sustainability promises to have long-ranging repercussions across our state.

The impact of our way of life on the planet and on the rest of humanity is of paramount importance to all of us, but these issues will only become more prevalent as the current generation of teenagers comes of age. As pertinent as environmental issues are, though, it is often difficult for young people to connect with them and to make them their own. Dave Chameides manages to bridge that chasm, transcend teenage apathy, and connect to the deep and effusive enthusiasm these young people are still capable of. We have seen the effects of his advice in large and small ways on our campus since his visit, in an explosion of reusable water-bottle use as well as other indicators of personal conservation. I highly recommend him as a speaker who will engage an audience and cause them to truly re-examine their personal values and choices.

Sincerely,

Lucy Milner, On-Site Director  
Governor's School West

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6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6356  
[www.ncgovschool.org](http://www.ncgovschool.org)

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**GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL EAST** Meredith College, Raleigh