

## Pakistani Exchange Fosters Understanding

Written by Gary Childers  
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An exchange is breaking down misunderstandings and misconceptions of nations—one community at a time—that demonstrated at Monday's Watauga Board of Education meeting. A presentation by a group of teachers and administrators who hosted Pakistani teachers in their homes and schools in Watauga County, then returned the visit with those same educators in Pakistan this year, explained by Hardin Park principal, Mary Smalling. She provided background about how the project came into being due to a Fulbright Scholar student from Pakistan visiting Appalachian State and finding out Americans were not as he thought they were. This graduate student developed a project with a professor from ASU to address the differences in perceptions between Pakistani and American citizens...

At the conclusion of their presentation the participants announced that the Pakistanis were coming back in October or November and bringing students this time. A request was made for volunteers to become host families for the two weeks these visitors will be in the county.