McDowell County Schools has been working with Reconnecting McDowell for the past two years to implement community schools in the County. On May 22, Reconnecting McDowell board members (including AFT President Randi Weingarten) and staff toured Southside K-8 School, a community school, with Cheryl Cruey, assistant principal and supervisor of curriculum and instruction, and Sarah Muncy, community school coordinator.

During the visit, dental hygienists from Smiles Mobile Dentistry spoke about their experience working with students and the services they offer. A mobile unit visits the school twice a year to give students free cleanings and restorative services. This school year, Smiles has seen 102 patients and completed 253 dental procedures.

Southside K-8 thrives as a hub, connector and resource for the War area, with Reconnecting McDowell continuing to provide support to its staff. The recent tour reaffirmed the project’s fundamental belief that McDowell students are as smart and capable as other students, and it is through the wraparound services the school provides that they’re able to unlock and realize their potential. As site coordinator, Muncy helps obtain and coordinate the services of partners that make community schools such an integral part of the County.

Southside’s services are made possible by federal and state funds and support from dedicated partners, organizations and individuals. If you’d like to make a monetary or in-kind contribution, contact Sarah Muncy at sarah.muncy@k12.wv.us.

Stay connected with McDowell
McDowell County is an American story that deserves a new chapter—one filled with promise, with goodwill, with the type of shared commitment that offers solid reasons to believe in a brighter future. Be a part of this historic partnership and show your support for McDowell’s children and the greater community by joining the effort at www.ReconnectingMcDowell.org.

Second-graders in the Southside after-school robotics program show off their skills for AFT President Randi Weingarten. This school year, six students participated in the program, which was funded by an Innovation Zone grant that Reconnecting McDowell applied for with Southside staff.
Reconnecting McDowell has received $200,000 from the AT&T Foundation to support two more years of the Broader Horizons mentorship program. The program was implemented in 2013, through a $300,000 grant from the foundation. In the past three years, Broader Horizons has provided mentoring to 58 high school juniors from McDowell County. Guidance counselors from Mount View and River View high schools selected the students, who were then paired with a Broader Horizons mentor. They received training in career and professional skills, such as public speaking; effective networking tips; and guidance on how to complete strong college and financial aid applications. The program included two weeklong trips, to Charleston and Washington, D.C., that featured culturally enriching activities and visits to state representatives.

Reconnecting McDowell is proud to partner with the AT&T Foundation to mentor McDowell students.

Want to get involved or learn more? For more information about Reconnecting McDowell or to find out how you can get involved, contact Kris Mallory, kmallory@aftwv.org, or Debra Elmore at delmore@aftwv.org or 304-552-5766.