

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY[®]
**PURPLE & GOLD
BUS
TOUR**[™]



Funded by a grant provided by the Health Resources & Services Administration
Pamela Reis, PI
College of Nursing

BUS TOUR FUNDING & SUPPORT

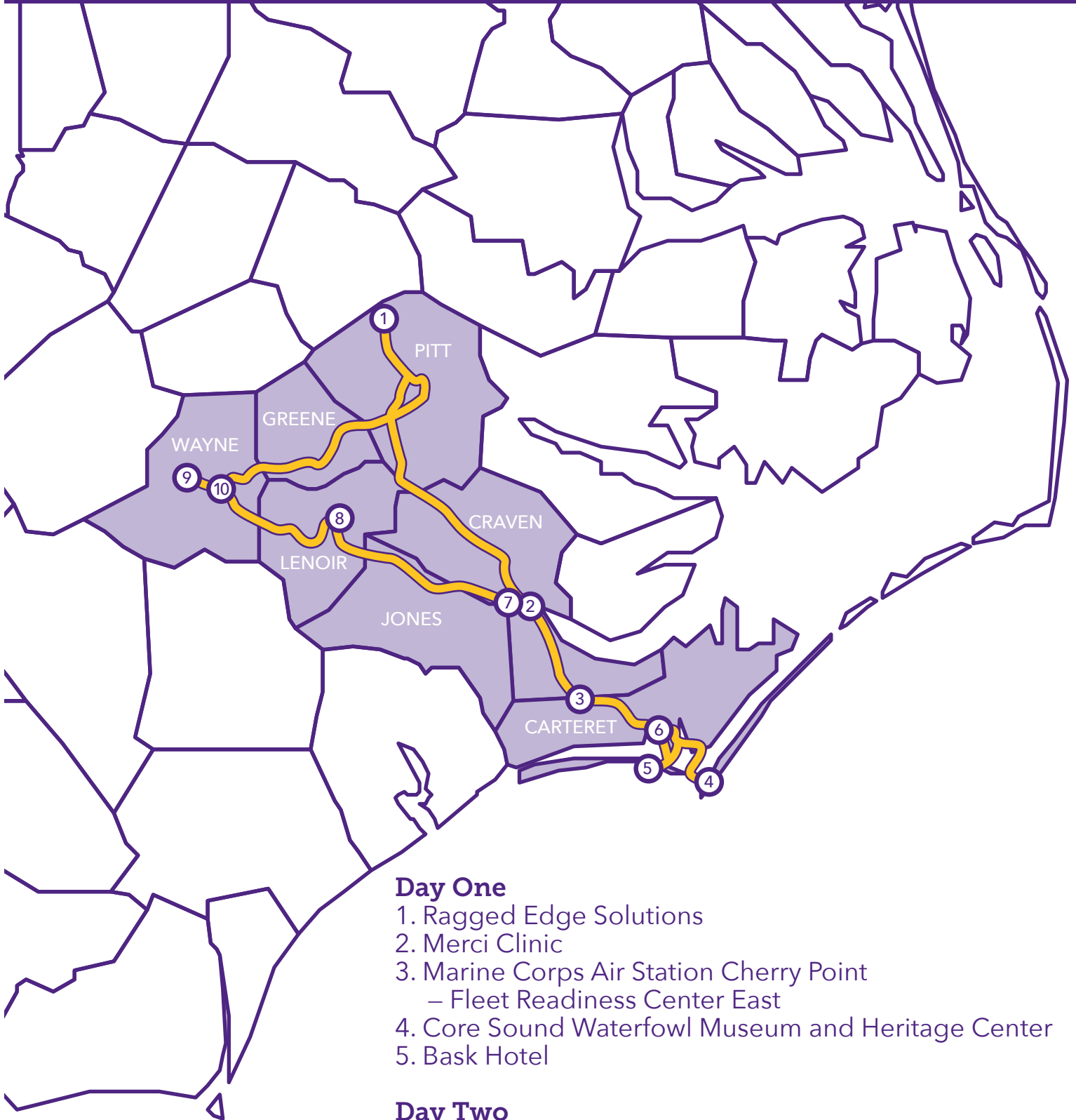


The 2022 Purple and Gold Bus Tour is funded by a grant from the United States Health Resources & Services Administration's (HRSA) Advanced Nursing Education Workforce program, Pamela Reis, Principal Investigator.

The purpose of this project, "Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Academic-Clinical Practice Collaborative," (HRSA grant number T94HP32898) is to significantly strengthen the availability and capacity of the APRN primary care workforce in rural and underserved communities in eastern North Carolina.

Learn more about the program online at <https://nursing.ecu.edu/ruralscholars/>.

2022 PURPLE AND GOLD BUS TOUR STOPS



Day One

1. Ragged Edge Solutions
2. Merci Clinic
3. Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point
– Fleet Readiness Center East
4. Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center
5. Bask Hotel

Day Two

6. Jarrett Bay Boatworks
7. Craven Community College – VOLT
Center
8. North Carolina Global TransPark
9. Howell Farming Company
10. Wayne County Public Library

TIMELINE DAY ONE

SITE	TIME	PRESENTER	ACTIVITY & OUTCOME
DEPART ECU	7:30 AM	REDE LEADERSHIP	<p>ACTIVITY: Welcome remarks</p> <p>GOAL: Overview of tour</p>
RAGGED EDGE SOLUTIONS Conetoe, Edgecombe County	25-Minute Drive ARRIVAL: 7:55 AM DEPARTURE: 9:00 AM	ROGER DAIL Chief Executive Officer Ragged Edge Solutions RICH SALVE Chief Operating Officer Ragged Edge Solutions	<p>ACTIVITY: Tour</p> <p>GOAL: Understanding of field and casualty care programs. Exploration of research partnership opportunities.</p>
PITT AND CRAVEN COUNTIES Windshield tour	75-Minute Drive 9:00 - 10:15 AM		<p>ACTIVITY: Network on bus</p>
MERCY CLINIC New Bern, Craven County	ARRIVAL: 10:15 AM DEPARTURE: 11:15 AM	BARB KRCMAR Director Merci Clinic CAROL THORNBERG Board Member Merci Clinic	<p>ACTIVITY: Tour</p> <p>GOAL: Understanding health disparities in rural communities. Exploration of research partnership opportunities.</p>
CRAVEN COUNTY Windshield tour	30-Minute Drive 11:15 -11:45 AM		<p>ACTIVITY: Network on bus</p>
MCAS CHERRY POINT, FRC EAST Havelock, Craven County	ARRIVAL: 11:45 AM DEPARTURE: 2:00 PM	COL THOMAS ATKINSON Commanding Officer MCAS Cherry Point CAPT JAMES BELMONT Executive Officer MCAS Cherry Point MATTHEW MCCANN Capability Establishment and Business Development Branch	<p>ACTIVITY: lunch, tour</p> <p>GOAL: Understanding military impact on coastal and eastern N.C. Exploration of research partnership opportunities.</p>

SITE	TIME	PRESENTER	ACTIVITY & OUTCOME
CRAVEN AND CARTERET COUNTIES Windshield tour	60-Minute Drive 2:00 - 3:00 PM		ACTIVITY: Network on bus
CORE SOUND WATERFOWL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER Harkers Island, Carteret County	ARRIVAL: 3:00 PM DEPARTURE: 7:00 PM	KAREN AMSPACHER Director Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center	ACTIVITY: Tour and Dinner GOAL: Understanding of heritage and history of the area, challenges of coastal living and impacts of natural disasters. Exploration of research partnership opportunities.
CARTERET COUNTY Windshield tour	35-Minute Drive 7:00 - 7:35 PM		ACTIVITY: Network on bus
BASK HOTEL Beaufort, Carteret County	ARRIVAL: 7:35 PM		ACTIVITY: Overnight stay

TIMELINE DAY TWO

BASK HOTEL Beaufort, Carteret County	6:30 - 7:30 AM		ACTIVITY: Breakfast
CARTERET COUNTY Windshield tour	20-Minute Drive 7:30 - 7:50 AM		ACTIVITY: Network on bus

SITE	TIME	PRESENTER	ACTIVITY & OUTCOME
<p>JARRETT BAY BOATWORKS Beaufort, Carteret County</p>	<p>ARRIVAL: 8:00 AM</p> <p>DEPARTURE: 9:30 AM</p>	<p>PAUL ELLIS Marine Parts and Salvage Manager Jarrett Bay Boatworks</p> <p>PEYTON LANIER Marine Engineer Jarrett Bay Boatworks</p> <p>RANDY RAMSEY President Jarrett Bay Boatworks</p>	<p>ACTIVITY: Tour</p> <p>GOAL: Understanding of advanced manufac- turing, boating industry, and workforce development needs.</p>
<p>CRAVEN AND CARTERET COUNTIES Windshield tour</p>	<p>45-Minute Drive</p> <p>9:30 - 10:15 AM</p>		<p>ACTIVITY: Network on bus</p>
<p>CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, VOLT CENTER New Bern, Craven County</p>	<p>ARRIVAL: 10:15 AM</p> <p>DEPARTURE: 11:15 AM</p>	<p>GERRY BOUCHER Vice President for Students Craven Community College</p> <p>EDDIE FOSTER Volt Center Dean Craven Community College</p> <p>AMANDA OHLENSEHLEN Economic and Community Development Manager New Bern</p> <p>JEFF SCHULZE Director of Trade Programs Volt Center</p>	<p>ACTIVITY: Tour</p> <p>GOAL: Understanding of workforce development training and its impact on the region.</p>

SITE	TIME	PRESENTER	ACTIVITY & OUTCOME
CRAVEN AND LENOIR COUNTIES Windshield tour	45-Minute Drive 11:10 AM- 12:00 PM		ACTIVITY: Network on bus
NORTH CAROLINA GLOBAL TRANSPARK Kinston, Lenoir County	ARRIVAL: NOON DEPARTURE: 2:30 PM	ADAM SHORT Assistant County Manager Lenoir County TOMMY SOWERS President flyExclusive	ACTIVITY: Tour and lunch GOAL: Understanding of eastern North Carolina industries and their impact on rural economies. Exploration of research partnership opportunities.
LENOIR AND WAYNE COUNTIES Windshield tour	35-Minute Drive 2:30 - 3:05 PM		ACTIVITY: Network on bus
HOWELL FARMING COMPANY Goldsboro, Wayne County	ARRIVAL: 3:05 PM DEPARTURE: 4:05 PM	DANNY BEASLEY Operations Managers Howell Farming Company MELISSA BEASLEY Quality Control Howell Farming Company FRANK HOWELL Owner and Operator Howell Farming Company GARRETT HOWELL Farm Manager Howell Farming Company	ACTIVITY: Tour GOAL: Understanding agriculture and the impact on the region. Exploration of research partnership opportunities.

SITE	TIME	PRESENTER	ACTIVITY & OUTCOME
LENOIR COUNTY Windshield tour	10-Minute Drive 4:05 - 4:15 PM		ACTIVITY: Network on bus
WAYNE COUNTY LIBRARY Goldsboro, Wayne County	ARRIVAL: 4:05 PM DEPARTURE: 5:15 PM	OCTAVIUS MURPHY Assistant City Manager Goldsboro NATE MYERS STEM teacher Rocky Mount Preparatory DONNA PHILLIPS Director Wayne County Library MAEGAN WILSON Assistant Director Wayne County Library	ACTIVITY: Tour GOAL: Understanding educational opportunities outside of the classroom, partnerships, and economic development of the region. Exploration of research partnership opportunities.

RETURN TO GREENVILLE 60-Minute Drive

ADDRESSES & CONTACTS

TOUR STOPS

RAGGED EDGE SOLUTIONS

2475 Thigpen Road

Greenville, N.C. 27834

Telephone: 252-643-5333

The team at RES is comprised of the world's foremost experts in special operations medicine and are pioneers in prolonged field care / prolonged casualty care. RES is a team of combat-veteran special operations professionals that provide innovative training solutions. They develop and deliver unique and ground-breaking curriculum, courses, and products to government, law enforcement personnel as well as civilians and civilian emergency organizations. Based on extensive operational experience in some of the worst places in the world, they extracted lessons learned to tailor custom solutions and fit any need. The RES Lodge is located in a rural farm area northwest of Greenville in Edgecombe County and accommodates teams of special operations medical personnel for weeks at a time.

MERCI CLINIC

1315 Tatum Drive

New Bern, N.C. 28560

Telephone: 252-633-1599

Merci Clinic is a nonprofit community clinic staffed primarily by volunteers who provide free healthcare services for uninsured adults. At this stop you will learn how this clinic operates, see a fully functional in-house pharmacy, and develop and understanding of the struggles of rural healthcare in Craven, Pamlico and Jones counties.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, FLEET READINESS CENTER EAST

A St. Building 137

Havelock, N.C. 28532

MCAS Cherry Point, FRC East is a naval aviation maintenance and repair depot under Naval Air Systems Command. FRC East is one of eight fleet readiness centers and is the only center commanded by Marines. FRC East is North Carolina's largest industrial employer east of I95 with more than 4,000 military, civilian, and contract workers. At this stop you will daily operations including repair and overhaul of aircraft. You will also learn a little about the role the Air Station plays in the civilian workforce and surrounding economy.

CORE SOUND WATERFOWL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER

1785 Island Road

Harkers Island, N.C. 28531

Telephone: 252-728-1500

Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center brings together the culture, geography, environment, education and economic perspectives of communities across eastern North Carolina. While at this site you will be immersed in the vision of Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center. You will learn about the history of decoy making, history of the area, and about hurricanes and changes they have brought about to the coast.

JARRET BAY BOATWORKS

400 Sensation Weigh

Beaufort, N.C. 28516

Telephone: 252-475-5400

A premier builder of custom sportfishing boats, Jarrett Bay began in 1986 when Randy Ramsey led the construction of a single 52-foot charter boat, the Sensation, in an old tin shed. Since then, Jarrett Bay has constructed and delivered over 100 custom and semi-production sportfish boats and serviced tens of thousands of vessels. Their one-of-a-kind custom construction process allows them to finely balance customer needs for fishing performance, fuel efficiency and luxury - all while never sacrificing the legendary Carolina ride.

The Jarrett Bay Marine Industrial Park is a 175-acre facility, situated directly on the Intracoastal Waterway in Carteret County. The park has rapidly evolved into one of the most comprehensive one-stop service and supply facilities on the East Coast. Jarrett Bay's core 73 acre JBBW yard serves as the centerpiece of the park, featuring dedicated service buildings totaling over 140,000 square feet, surrounded by on-site major marine service operations - ensuring that almost any recreational, commercial, power or sail support needs can be met.

CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOLT CENTER

205 First Street

New Bern, N.C. 28562

Telephone: 252-633-0857

Founded in 1965, Craven Community College is a dynamic teaching and learning institution that serves more than 4,000 curriculum students and more than 11,000 individuals in workforce development training programs each year. The Volt Center workforce training facility near downtown New Bern houses various hands-on, skilled trades programs for various trades. The Volt Center also hosts specialized programs for law enforcement training simulator and is the home of the Small Business Center and community makerspace..

NC GLOBAL TRANSPARK

2780 Jetport Road
Kinston, N.C. 28504

Telephone: 252-755-6180

The North Carolina Global Transpark (NCGTP) is a world-class multimodal industrial and business park. Strategically located in Kinston, the 2,500-acre park supports the manufacturing and logistics needs of the aviation, aerospace, defense, emergency response and advanced materials industries. The heart of NCGTP is an 11,500-foot runway - one of the longest runways on the East Coast, making it possible for the world's largest planes to land and take off here. It also features on-site rail connections, shovel-ready development sites, available facilities, an on-site Foreign Trade Zone and a composite center that is one of the most advanced workforce-development training facilities in the state.

FLYEXCLUSIVE AT NC GTP

2780 Jetport Road
Kinston, N.C. 28504

Telephone: 252-755-6180

FlyExclusive proudly fulfills its mission of providing high quality, safe and reliable point to point private jet travel at industry leading levels of affordability, accessibility and client satisfaction. Founded in 2015, FlyExclusive has grown from three jets to 75 with another 25 added by end of 2022. Its fleet model is based on buying or leasing used jets, that are repainted and refurbished to standardized configurations. With Fortune 500 recognition, full access to a growing fleet of highly desirable company-owned aircraft, 24/7 nationwide flight operations, personalized customer service, and decades of experience as operators and innovators, FlyExclusive is a robust aviation partner.

DRAKEN INTERNATIONAL AT NC GTP

2780 Jetport Road
Kinston, N.C. 28504

Telephone: 252-755-6180

Draken International creates a new standard in aviation service capabilities for all branches of the United States Military and Department of Defense. With over 50 jets, Draken International operates the largest fleet of privately owned tactical aircraft in the world. It is positioned to be a leading defense asset with extensive capabilities in airborne adversary support, threat simulation, aerial refueling, research, testing, as well as other missions suited to a diverse fleet of aircraft. Draken International employs world-class, military-trained Fighter Pilots. The team is comprised of an elite cadre of USAF Weapons School Instructors, Fighter Weapons School Graduates, TOP GUN Instructors, US Navy Aggressors, Air Liaison Officers, Thunderbirds Demonstration Pilots, and FAC-A Instructors. Its tactical experts have the experience to challenge today's warriors for tomorrow's fight while continuing to sharpen America's edge in current operations around the globe.

HOWELL FARMING COMPANY

106 J and L Drive

Goldsboro, N.C. 27530

Telephone: 919-734-1118

Howell Farming Company, established in 1984, is a third generation working family farm in Goldsboro. People around the globe consume top quality sweet potatoes and watermelons grown at Howell Farming Company. Their sweet potato brand, Covington sweet potatoes was developed by NC State. The seedless watermelons grown, harvested and handpicked on Howell Farm are packaged in bins and shipped to grocery stores, schools and other markets. Howell Farming Company takes pride in feeding families around the globe top quality sweet potatoes and watermelons.

WAYNE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

1001 E. Ash Street

Goldsboro, N.C. 27530

Telephone: 919-735-1824

The main branch of the Wayne County Public Library system is located in Goldsboro. The library's mission is to strengthen our community by bringing people together to explore, discover, and connect. The library currently serves a wide array of patrons from immigrants to military to college students. The Library strives to provide its community with information, materials, and services that support learning and the workplace; to promote an appreciation of its history and diverse cultures; and, to offer community members the opportunity to meet and interact with others in the community. While at the library, bus tour participants will learn about an innovative partnership between the library and Wayne Community College that engages middle school students in the exploration of STEM fields. The library also encourages young people to develop an entrepreneurial mindset through Project Click, the library's community garden, ecoEXPLORE, and plans to launch an environmental education program.

LODGING & DINING

BASK HOTEL

814 Shepard Street
Morehead City, N.C. 28557
Telephone: 252-499-9200

The Bask Hotel located in Morehead City, in close proximity to Big Rock Landing, offers sights and sounds of the harbor and continuous views of boating and coastal living. The hotel offers an expanded complimentary continental breakfast, that will be served to your door due to COVID restrictions. The hotel also features a complimentary 24-hour business center, a fully-equipped fitness room, and a sundries shop. Complimentary WiFi is provided for guests.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS

FACULTY & STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Eric Bailey

Public Health and Anthropology
Brody School of Medicine

Ann Bell

Clinical Assistant Profession, DNP
College of Nursing

Kristin Black

Health Education and Promotion
College of Health and Human Performance

Cierra Brown

APRN Rural Scholars Program
College of Nursing

Makenze Caldwell

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Stacy Carlson

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Rebecca Clopp

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Bianca Coleman

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Anna Cook

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Thompson Forbes

Advanced Nursing Practice and Education
College of Nursing

Amanda Foy

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Alaina Gobush

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Derek Huffman

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Gillian Jackson

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Bryan Jenkins

Director of External Affairs and Constituent Relations
Office of the Chancellor

Kayla Johnson

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Beth Ketterman

Associate Professor, Director
Laupus Library

Melissa Lawson

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Haiyong Liu

Economics
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Valentina Miller

Nursing Student, Midwifery
College of Nursing

Karson Nelson

Strategic Initiatives and Government Affairs
Office of the Chancellor

Erin Pardini

Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Jeff Popke

Geography, Planning and Environment
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Timothy Reeder

Emergency Medicine
Brody School of Medicine

Pamela Reis

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Christy Rhodes

Interdisciplinary Professions - Adult Education Program
College of Education

FACULTY & STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Rachel Roberts
Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

William "Jason" Rowe
Director Bureau of Business Research
Marketing and Supply Chain Management
College of Business

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Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Olga Smirnova
Political Science
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Kimberly Stepney
Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

Tammy Thompson
Vidant Office of Experience
Experience Design and Patient Education
Vidant Health

DoMonique Trotter
Nursing Student, Nurse-Midwifery
College of Nursing

Heather Vance-Chalcraft
Biology
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Elizabeth Williams
Nursing Sciences
College of Nursing

Maghan Wooten
Nursing Student, Nurse-Midwifery
College of Nursing

Rebecca Zadeh
Nursing Student, DNP
College of Nursing

REDE LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Mary Farwell
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Research Compliance

Annette Kariko
Director
Continuing and Professional Education

Cassie Keel
University Program Support Associate
Community Engagement and Research

Jim Menke
Director of National Security Initiatives
National Security and Industry Initiatives

Sharon Paynter
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Economic and Community Engagement

Justin Pritchard
Administrative Support Associate
Office of Community Engagement and Research

Kim Tilghman
Communications Specialist

Kathryn Verbanac
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Research Development and Advancement

Keith Wheeler
Executive Director
National Security and Industry Initiatives

BUS TOUR SPEAKERS

Roger Dail

Chief Executive Officer, Ragged Edge Solutions
Edgecombe County

Rich Salve

Chief Operating Officer, Ragged Edge Solutions
Edgecombe County

Barb Krcmar

Director, Merci Clinic
Craven County

Carol Thornberg

Board Member, Merci Clinic
Craven County

Colonel Thomas Atkinson

Commanding Officer, MCAS Cherry Point
Craven County

Captain James Belmont

Executive Officer, MCAS Cherry Point
Craven County

Matthew McCann

Logistice, MCAS Cherry Point
Craven County

Karen Amspacher

Director, Core Sount Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center
Carteret County

Paul Ellis

Marine Parts and Salvage Manager, Jarrett Bay Boatworks
Carteret County

Peyton Lanier

Marine Engineer, Jarrett Bay Boatworks
Carteret County

Randy Ramsey

President, Jarrett Bay Boatworks
Carteret County

Gerry Boucher

Vice President for Students, Craven Community College
Craven County

Eddie Foster

Dean, Volt Center at Craven Community College
Craven County

Amanda Ohlensehlen

Economic and Community Development Manager
City of New Bern
Craven County

Jeff Schulze

Director of Trade Programs, Volt Center
Craven County

Adam Short

Assistant County Manager
Lenoir County

Tommy Sowers

President, flyExclusive
Wayne County

Danny Beasley

Operations Manager, Howell Farming Company
Wayne County

Melissa Beasley

Quality Control Manager, Howell Farming Company
Wayne County

Frank Howell

Owner and Operator, Howell Farming Company
Wayne County

Garrett Howell

Farm Manager Howell Farming Company
Wayne County

Octavius Murphy

Assistant City Manager, Goldsboro
Wayne County

Nate Myers

STEM Teacher, Rocky Mount Preparatory
Wayne County

Donna Phillips

Director, Wayne County Library
Wayne County

Maegan Wilson

Assistant Director, Wayne County Library
Wayne County

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Eric Bailey | baileye@ecu.edu

Public Health and Anthropology
Brody School of Medicine

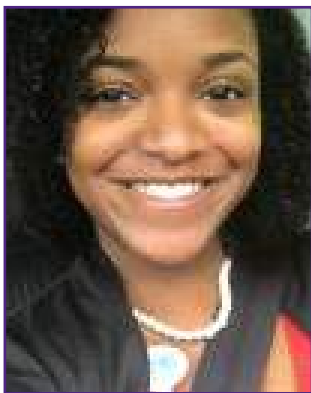
Eric Bailey earned his doctorate in medical and cultural anthropology from Wayne State University and a Master of Public Health from Emory University. His research interests include ethnic health, rural health, health disparities, hypertension, diabetes, prenatal care, cancer, alternative medicine, HIV/AIDs, and global public health. Bailey worked for the National Institutes of Health as a health scientist administrator and program director in the National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Minority Biomedical Branch and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities in Bethesda, MD. Bailey's current research interests are investigating Generation Z college students' health beliefs and preventive behavioral patterns associated with COVID-19 and developing an innovative public health outreach program to increase vaccination rates among Generation Z in eastern North Carolina.



Kristin Black | blackkr18@ecu.edu

Health Education and Promotion
College of Health and Human Performance

Kristin Black received her Master of Public Health and doctorate in maternal and child health from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Black is committed to utilizing community-based participatory research, mixed methods, and racial equity approaches to understand and address inequities in reproductive health and chronic disease outcomes. Her research merges 3 key components. First, Black explores the connections between reproductive/maternal health and chronic diseases, and if these outcomes differ by race/ethnicity or other social identities. Second, she focuses on understanding what individual- and systems-level factors may hinder or facilitate people's journey through healthcare services. Third, she is committed to transforming research into action by engaging community stakeholders in implementing and sustaining interventions that tackle health inequities and structural racism.



Cierra Brown | brownci18@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Cierra Brown earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research interests include exploring modalities to increase health literacy in North Carolina, particularly the health literacy of parents of children ages 0-5 years. Her current project focuses on how QR codes can play a valuable role in improving patient outcomes by increasing access to health information. Her other research interests include improving patient outcomes for those diagnosed with chronic pulmonary sarcoidosis. Brown is currently an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) scholar.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Mackenze Caldwell | millerma13@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student
College of Nursing

Mackenze Caldwell earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing from East Carolina University. During her undergraduate studies, she partnered with Mendes to study the smoking habits of parents of children with special healthcare needs. Her current research interests include healthcare accessibility in rural communities and barriers to available healthcare for women's health. She is interested in researching ways to improve healthcare accessibility and reducing barriers to obtaining high-quality healthcare in North Carolina. Caldwell is an active scholar in the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) Scholars Program.



Stacy Carlson | carlsons19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Stacy Carlson earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2011. She is in her final year of the Doctor of Nursing program with a Family Nurse Practitioner concentration at East Carolina University. Her research interests include mental healthcare in rural and agricultural communities. Her doctoral project focuses on refining a mental healthcare screening tool for the farming population of North Carolina while aiming to increase the utilization of depression screening tools and improve follow-up communications from supportive services.



Rebecca Clopp | cloppr19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Rebecca Clopp graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science in nursing in 2013 and is currently working on her Doctor of Nursing with a Family Nurse Practitioner concentration at East Carolina University. She is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) scholar who plans to continue her career working with the underserved population in a community setting. Her research interests include identifying strategies to promote wellness and prevention among the underserved population to help reduce health disparities. She has pioneered a literacy program for high-risk infants in her community and is exploring provider counseling techniques to promote wellness-forward pediatric weight management strategies.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Bianca Coleman | Colemanb20@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Bianca Coleman began her doctorate in nursing practice at East Carolina University in the fall of 2020. She earned her Associate Degree in nursing from Cape Fear Community College in 2016 and her Bachelor of Science in nursing from UNC Wilmington in 2019. Her research interests have expanded from a focus on improvements in the quality of acute and critical care in both hospital and transport settings, to include improvements in access to primary care as a vessel of prevention for decreasing the incidence of avoidable injury, illness, and disease progression. She is interested in learning more about barriers to care in underserved and rural areas in order to develop innovative ways to eliminate or diminish those barriers in her future practice.



Anna Cook | manguma11@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Anna Cook is a family nurse practitioner student and will graduate with her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in May. She has over six years of experience as a registered nurse, mainly in pediatric critical care. Upon completion of her doctoral studies, she plans to work in a rural primary care clinic in eastern North Carolina. As part of her Doctor of Nursing Practice work, Anna partnered with a local community organization to design and implement a health careers exploration program for minority middle and high school students. The program focuses on expanding students' knowledge of and interest in healthcare careers. Anna hopes to continue this program in the future as a way to increase healthcare workforce diversity and improve population health outcomes.



Thompson Forbes | forbest17@ecu.edu

Advanced Nursing Practice and Education
College of Nursing

Thompson Forbes earned his Doctorate and Master of Science in nursing from East Carolina University. His research interests include understanding how the design of health systems impacts patient and nursing outcomes. His research is highly collaborative with health systems across North Carolina. A native of eastern North Carolina, his primary research focuses on understanding the health systems that impact care in this region of the state.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Amanda Foy | foya19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Amanda Foy is currently in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at ECU. She received her licensed practice nurse degree in 2006 at James Sprunt Community College, associates in nursing at Sampson Community College in 2008, and her bachelor's in nursing at Barton College in 2018. Foy's is currently employed as a home health and hospice nurse and plans to practice as a nurse practitioner in a rural area of North Carolina after completion of this program.



Alaina Gobush | gobusha19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Alaina Gobush earned her Bachelor of Science in biology from Meredith College in 2013, and her Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2016. Gobush is a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner program at East Carolina University. She is currently implementing her DNP project at a local Syringe Services Program, with a focus on early access to wound care for people who inject drugs. Her primary interests include preventive healthcare, community health, and patient education.



Derek Huffman | Huffmand18@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Derek Huffman is a Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner student in his last year at East Carolina University. He received his Bachelor of Science in nursing from Lenoir-Rhyne University and has worked at Duke University Hospital for 6 years. His professional interests include increasing access of care for patients that speak Spanish as their primary language and PrEP in primary care.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Gillian Jackson | jacksong15@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Adult Gerontology
College of Nursing

Gillian Jackson earned her Masters of Science in nursing education from East Carolina University and is a Doctor of Nursing candidate in the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program with an anticipated graduation date of May 2022. Jackson is interested in the role of telehealth in improving access to care in rural areas. Her clinical nursing background is in cardiac conditions. She currently teaches clinical and simulation in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Duke University. A focus on wellness, prevention, chronic disease management, and shared decision-making guide her student nurse practitioner practice.



Bryan Jenkins | jenkinsbr21@ecu.edu

Director of External Affairs and Constituent Relations
Office of the Chancellor

Bryan Jenkins earned his Bachelor of Arts at UNC Chapel Hill and is a NC Certified Public Accountant. He represents the University in the Greenville area as well as the region where he highlights the assets in addition to the challenges of our region to build partnerships that better the lives of those at ECU and in our communities. His work entails building and maintaining relationships for effective advocacy, strategically communicating data and experiences, and facilitating constructive discussions among diverse stakeholders. Jenkins works hand-in-hand with ECU's director of strategic initiatives, Karson Nelson, to intentionally engage with faculty and staff at the University, community leaders, regional partners, state legislators, council of state offices, and our DC delegation. Jenkins was born and raised in Northampton County in eastern North Carolina, so his admiration for eastern NC stems back to his roots.



Kayla Johnson | workk19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Kayla Johnson is currently an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) Scholars Program student within the College of Nursing. She plans to graduate in May 2022 with her doctorate with a specialty focus as a family nurse practitioner. After graduation, she plans to promote wellness as a nurse practitioner within a rural or underserved community to bridge the gap of knowledge and decrease the prevalence of disease.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Beth Ketterman | kettermane@ecu.edu

Director
Laupus Health Sciences Library

Beth Ketterman earned her Master of Library Sciences from North Carolina Central University in 2001 with a concentration in academic libraries. She has served in a number of roles at Laupus Library and enjoys working with the research communities in the health sciences, including understanding their information-seeking habits. Ketterman's own research has focused on electronic collections used by health sciences academic professionals and more recently supporting research at Laupus on digital literacy in rural populations.



Melissa Lawson | Lawsonm18@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student
College of Nursing

Melissa Lawson earned her Bachelor's of Science in nursing from Duke University. She gained a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in medical anthropology and global health. Lawson's research goals include improving health care and health outcomes for disenfranchised populations.



Haiyong Lie | liuh@ecu.edu

Economics
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Haiyong Liu earned his doctorate in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interest is focused on a range of empirical topics in labor economics, health economics, and public economics. Specifically, his research projects focused on the estimation of child outcome production functions and the behavioral responses of parents, including modeling the endogenous choices of school, financial aid, and maternal employment. Also, there is much to be learned about many labor and health issues in transition economies, such as labor market reforms, nutritional disparity, and substance abuse. Lastly, designing empirical research tools to yield unbiased and accurate estimators of behavioral relationships has also shown extraordinary potential for meaningful contributions to a wide range of research topics, including child development, nutritional inequality, and recreation demand. With continued effort along these avenues, he strives to continue to have a positive impact on research in these areas.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Ray Mattingly | mattinglyr21@ecu.edu

Pharmacology and Toxicology
Brody School of Medicine

Ray Mattingly received his doctorate in pharmacology from the University of Virginia. His research interests include the development of 3-D culture models of disease for more effective and efficient screening of targeted therapeutics, with work focused on early-stage breast cancer and type 1 neurofibromatosis (NF1). As the new Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Brody, his priorities include building collaborations to foster interdisciplinary and team science. The department is particularly interested in topics such as the health effects of environmental exposures and regulation of cardiovascular, metabolic, and behavioral dysfunction.



Valentina Miller | millerv19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Midwifery
College of Nursing

Valentina Miller is completing the nurse-midwife master's program this spring. She is interested in improving maternal newborn outcomes through patient education. Miller enjoys educating mothers to be physiologic birth and promoting healthy habits. She appreciates culturally congruent care to improve outcomes within under served populations.



Karson Nelson | nelsonkars21@ecu.edu

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Legislative Liaison
Office of the Chancellor

Karson Nelson earned her Master of Public Administration at the UNC School of Government with a concentration in policy. She represents ECU in Raleigh and Washington D.C. where she highlights the challenges as well as assets of our region to build partnerships that better the lives of those at our university and in our communities. Her work entails building and maintaining relationships for effective advocacy, strategically communicating data and experiences, and facilitating constructive discussions among diverse stakeholders. Karson works hand-in-hand with ECU's director of external affairs, Bryan Jenkins, to intentionally engage with faculty and staff at the university, community leaders, regional partners, state legislators, council of state offices, and our Washington D.C. delegation. Her admiration for eastern NC stems back to her roots in rural Mississippi where she grew up.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Erin Pardini | pardinie19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Erin Pardini is a Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner student expected to graduate in July 2022. Her DNP project addresses COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in minority populations in Mecklenburg County. She teaches community leaders within a local organization on motivational interviewing while using a decision aid tool to help streamline conversations about immunizing. Her goals are to improve discussions surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine to improve vaccine confidence in the community. After graduation, her focus is to provide primary care to underserved patients and improve chronic disease management in minorities and low-income families.



Jeff Popke | popkee@ecu.edu

Geography, Planning and Environment
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Jeff Popke holds a doctorate in geography from the University of Kentucky. He is a human geographer with research interests at the intersection of climate justice, environmental change, and rural livelihoods in the Global South. Much of his fieldwork in recent years has taken place in the English-speaking Caribbean. From 2011 to 2015, Popke was co-PI on an NSF-funded mixed-methods project in Jamaica focused on the impacts of climate change and market dynamics on small-scale agriculture. Results of this research identified significant costs associated with agricultural adaptation, suggesting that climate change is likely to increase inequality between large and small farmers. This research was later extended to a qualitative study of the ways in which islands states in the Eastern Caribbean—including Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines—are promoting agricultural adaptations and pursuing renewable energy transitions, particularly around the promotion of geothermal energy, in the face of climate stress. Popke's most recent research project took him to Bangladesh, where he was involved in a project examining how the hazard of riverbank erosion has prompted government action and is reshaping rural livelihoods in the Meghna River Delta.



Cindy Putnam-Evans | evansc@ecu.edu

Professor of Biology and Associate Dean for Research
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Cindy Putnam-Evans earned her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Georgia. She is a Professor in the Biology Department, and currently serves as the Associate Dean for Research in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Her research interests include protein-protein interactions in the Photosystem II complex of plants, green algae and cyanobacteria. She is a member of the ECU THRIVE team, whose goals aim to reduce bias and improve gender equity for women in STEM.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Timothy Reeder | reedert@ecu.edu

Emergency Medicine
Brody School of Medicine

Timothy Reeder earned a medical degree and completed residency in emergency medicine from Ohio State University. He obtained a master's degree in public health from the UNC Chapel Hill. He is the vice chair in the Department of Emergency Medicine. His academic interests include operational enhancements, quality improvement and educating on health systems science. He is the director of the Health Care System Transformation and Leadership Distinction Track, a three-year, para-curricular longitudinal program for 10 medical students a year. He directs the Teachers of Quality Academy, a professional development program for quality, safety, and leadership. He provides clinical care at Vidant Medical Center a rural, academic, Level 1 trauma center.



Pamela Reis | reisp@ecu.edu

Program Director and Nursing Science Department Chair
College of Nursing

Pamela Reis is the doctoral program director and Nursing Science Department chair at the College of Nursing. She received a Bachelors of Science in nursing from Duke University and Master of Science in nursing and doctorate from East Carolina University. She has over 40 years of nursing experience that includes practice as a nurse-midwife and neonatal nurse practitioner. Reis is the project director of a HRSA Advanced Nursing Education Workforce grant entitled Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Academic-Clinical Practice Collaborative. In her role as project director, she coordinates the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) Scholars Program, an immersive experience for graduate nursing students in the primary care of rural and underserved communities in North Carolina. Her research interests are expanding the advanced practice nursing workforce in rural and underserved communities, interprofessional education, integrative therapies in women's health, and midwifery education.



Christy Rhodes | rhodesc14@ecu.edu

Interdisciplinary Professions Adult Education
College of Education

Christy Rhodes earned her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of South Florida in 2013. Prior to that, she taught English to speakers of other languages in Florida, the United Arab Emirates, and Costa Rica. Her research agenda includes examining teaching practices that facilitate inclusive environments for adult language learners and documenting the lived experiences of immigrants and their families related to social, linguistic, and educational integration. Her most recent study used a framework of community-engaged scholarship to interview multiple generations of Latinos and Latinas in eastern North Carolina.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Rachel Roberts | robertsra13@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Family Nurse Practitioner
College of Nursing

Rachel Roberts is a third-year student completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner at East Carolina University. She has spent the pandemic working as a nurse in the Emergency Room and a COVID unit in Durham/Raleigh. She calls Durham home and loves the diverse and vibrant city. Roberts recently returned from a trip to Guatemala where she completed the implementation portion of her Doctor of Nursing Practice project in resiliency factor in infants recovering from malnutrition and international volunteer training.



William "Jason" Rowe | rowew@ecu.edu

Marketing and Supply Chain Management
College of Business

William (Jason) Rowe is the director of the Bureau of Business Research and an associate professor of Marketing and Supply Chain Management in the College of Business at East Carolina University. He has extensive experience conducting academic and industry research using various methodologies to gain meaningful insight for both scholars and practitioners. Rowe consults with industry leaders and policy makers across North Carolina addressing challenges related to economic and community development. His research has been presented at regional, national, and international conferences and his research has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals. Rowe earned his PhD in business administration from the Gatton College of Business and economics at the University of Kentucky and his Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from Marshall University.



Jean-Luc Scemama | scemamaj@ecu.edu

Biology
Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Jean-Luc Scemama earned his PhD in molecular biotechnology and pharmacology from Universite Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, France. Through the years, his research interests have evolved from hormonal regulation of pancreatic cancer to the role of hox genes (transcription regulators) in patterning embryonic development. More recently he got involved, in collaboration with a colleague in the department of chemistry and another one in the department of physiology at the Brody School of Medicine, in the development of new cryopreservatives to store red blood cells and nucleated cells. Scemama has served for the past ten years as the undergraduate director in the biology department and more recently accepted the position of associate dean for academic programs in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Kimberly Stepney | stepneyk19@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Adult Gerontology
College of Nursing

Kimberly Stepney earned her bachelor's in nursing from East Carolina University. Stepney is currently a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program through the College of Nursing with a concentration in adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner. Kimberly is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) Scholar and is interested in the health of rural eastern North Carolinians and how the history of rural eastern North Carolina has shaped the health and healthcare of the region.



DoMonique Trotter | trotterd18@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Midwifery
College of Nursing

DoMonique Trotter received her Bachelor of Science in nursing at the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY. Upon completion of her Master of Science in nursing and receiving her certification in nurse-midwifery, she will function in a labourist role and provide community education classes. Her patient populations of interest are adolescents and underrepresented ethnic groups.



Heather Vance - Chalcraft | vancechalcraft@ecu.edu

Biology
Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Heather Vance-Chalcraft earned her doctorate in biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research focuses on strategies to improve student engagement, scientific literacy, and the development of research and team science competencies. She has particular interest in the benefits of involving students in community engagement through citizen science, community science, and service-learning.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Elizabeth Williams | williamseliz21@ecu.edu

Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Elizabeth Williams earned her doctorate in nursing science from Case Western Reserve University. Her research interests include examining psychophysiological stress pathways in midlife African American women, primarily focusing on those in the caregiving role. Williams's main research goals aim to develop, deliver, and evaluate relevant stress reduction techniques to improve health outcomes. She examines perceived stress, spirituality/religiosity, allostatic load, and heart rate variability.



Maghan Wooten | wootenma07@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student, Midwifery
College of Nursing

Maghan Wooten earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing from East Carolina University and is currently working as a labor and delivery nurse at Vidant Medical Center. Her interests include reproductive and women's health, adolescent health, and contraceptive management. She is passionate about providing healthcare to women in eastern North Carolina. She is currently working on obtaining her Master of Science in nurse-midwifery from East Carolina University.



Rebecca Zadeh | owensreb18@students.ecu.edu

Nursing Student
College of Nursing

Rebecca Zadeh earned a Master of Science in nursing education from UNC Greensboro and her Bachelor of Science in nursing from UNC Wilmington. Her nursing experience includes 10+ years in medical-surgery, cardiac/telemetry, and postpartum care. She also served three years as a full-time faculty member for an Associate Degree in nursing program. Rebecca hopes to utilize knowledge acquired as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Rural and Underserved Roadmap to Advance Leadership (RURAL) Scholar to improve access to primary care in rural NC communities. While on the Purple and Gold Bus Tour, Rebecca plans to glean information about everyday barriers to optimal health with the goal of identifying strategies to help individuals overcome these barriers in the future.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

Founded in 1741, Edgecombe County was formed from the larger precincts of Albemarle and Bertie. It is named for Richard Edgecumbe, a member of Parliament and Lord of the English Treasury. Tuscarora Indians originally inhabited the lands, followed by English settlers.

The county seat of Tarboro enjoys a downtown historic district with a 15-acre Commons, second in age only to Boston Common. Historic Tarboro features colonial charm and attractions such as the Tar River and Coolmore antebellum mansion. Tarboro boasts a low cost of living and is a NC Certified Retirement Community.



While much of Edgecombe County is rural, the lower cost of land and proximity both to Raleigh and coastal ports has helped make the area an attractive home to industry. The Kingsboro CSX industrial site is 1,449 acres primed for business which is being recruited through the two-county Carolinas Gateway Partnership. In the past few years, Edgecombe County has welcomed industry in the forms of technology, textiles, packaging, auto part assembly, infrastructure construction and more. In 2018, it was announced that the Carolina Connector intermodal transportation facility would be built on the CSX complex and would help get products to customers and spur economic growth. The facility, which moves products in containers between trains and trucks, opened toward the end of 2021.

As the pandemic paused several coming projects, another hit to the area's industry came in early 2022 when the County's top employer and one of its largest manufacturers, QVC in Rocky Mount, suffered a devastating and deadly fire. Major facility damage caused the plant to close permanently, displacing 2,000 workers.

On the Purple and Gold Bus Tour, we will visit the Ragged Edge Solutions facility in Conetoe. For over 10 years, members of the RES team have been developing prolonged field care programs and education for the Department of Defense (DOD) and others.

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CRAVEN COUNTY

Craven County was founded in 1705, formed from the Bath County precinct and named in honor of the Earl of Craven, one of the Lords Proprietors. New Bern is the county seat, and it was once the state's capital until the establishment of Raleigh in 1792. The state's first newspaper, the North-Carolina Gazette, began in New Bern.



New Bern remains the economic center of the county. It is home to one of the state's most popular historic attractions, Tryon Palace, and features a historic downtown area on the riverfront. Several annual events, such as Mumfest and Beary Merry Christmas, help fill the streets -- and businesses -- with visitors. Small, chain and manufacturing businesses continue to provide employment and economic opportunities for the region.

Some of the top employers in Craven County are Marine Corps Air

Station Cherry Point in Havelock, CarolinaEast Medical Center, BSH Home Appliances, and Moen. The county also produces agricultural products such as tobacco, corn, peanuts, beef, chickens and more. Products manufactured in Craven County include textiles, computer parts, furniture, and power tools. Minerals like lime and shell stone are mined in the County as well.

The County's second largest municipality, Havelock, was established as a town in 1959, nearly 20 years after becoming the home of MCAS Cherry Point. A big boom in new construction is anticipated in Havelock as MCAS Cherry Point plans for expansion of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter in the Marine Corps.

On the Purple and Gold Bus Tour, we will visit several sites in Craven County. On day one, we will visit the Merci Clinic and MCAS Cherry Point. The Merci Clinic is a nonprofit community clinic that provides free healthcare services for Craven and surrounding counties. It is rated one of the most successful free clinics in the state. The second day of the tour will include a stop at the Volt Center. The Volt Center, an extension of Craven Community College, is a former electric power plant turned unique workforce development training center. The Volt Center partners with local businesses to provide students and new hires with hands-on training guided by current employment needs. The facility duplicates real worksite experiences in various trades to help produce a successful and viable workforce.

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CARTERET COUNTY



Established in 1722, Carteret County is named for John Carteret, the only lord proprietor not to sell his share of Carolina back to the Crown in the late 1720s. Originally called 'Fishtown', the county seat is Beaufort. It was laid out and incorporated in the early 1700s, making it one of the state's oldest towns. In 2019, Beaufort was named 'The South's Best Small Town' by Southern Living magazine.

Carteret County is home to the southern Outer Banks, also known as the Crystal Coast. Many of the state's most popular and prosperous coastal communities and beaches are found here. A wild horse population lives on Shackleford Banks, and the public can see them during a boat ride or hike. Cape Lookout Lighthouse, Fort Macon State Park and the NC Maritime Museum are a few of the County's historic landmarks and additional tourist attractions. The North Carolina Seafood Festival, which takes place annually in Morehead City, is the County's largest and most profitable event -- as well as one of the State's.

Benefiting from all the assets of a flourishing coastal community, Carteret County enjoys an annual economic impact of nearly \$325 million in tourism dollars. Thanks to that tourism bounty, residents pay the lowest county property tax in all of NC. And, new residents are flocking to the area. Leaders have recently noticed a demographic shift towards younger professionals and families as remote work during the pandemic provided the option to conduct business in a place with a great view. More growth is expected for the area with the coming interstate bypass that will lead to easier and faster travel to the coast.

The County has a diverse mix of businesses and industries. One of the county's larger employers, Carteret Health Care is the first in the state to become a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. The Beaufort area hosts marine research facilities associated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University. Along with an official state port in Morehead City, the County also retains a workforce in manufactured goods and agricultural products.

On the Purple and Gold Bus Tour, we will visit Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center at Harkers Island and Jarrett Bay Boatworks. The Museum & Heritage Center celebrates and educates the public about the NC islanders' way of life and the surrounding habitat. The public can enjoy exhibits, live demonstrations and outdoor programs year-round. Jarrett Bay Boatworks builds custom sportfishing boats and provides boat service and repairs.

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LENOIR COUNTY

Formerly Dobbs County, Lenoir County was founded in 1791 and was named for General William Lenoir, a Revolutionary War hero, Speaker of the State Senate, and trustee of the University of North Carolina. Kinston, originally Kingston, is the County Seat.

A rural part of the state with a long history in farming, Lenoir County was largely a producer of tobacco for many decades. With the decline in tobacco production, major crops produced in the county now include cotton, grains, beans, sweet potatoes, corn and other vegetables; the area is also a producer of livestock, poultry and swine.

Although it has deep roots in agriculture, Lenoir County is home to several large manufacturing plants. Top employers include DuPont, West Pharmaceutical, Sanderson Farms, and Smithfield Foods.



Kinston has recently enjoyed a boost in attention following its revitalization efforts in the downtown area. Owners of the Chef and the Farmer, an upscale restaurant that embraces the area's foods and traditions, helped fuel the revitalization energy. 'A Chef's Life,' which aired on PBS for five years, documented the opening and operation of the restaurant in the small city. Other attractions that are bringing visitors to Kinston and Lenoir County include Mother Earth Brewery, minor league baseball at Historic Grainger Stadium, the CSS Neuse (a Confederate ironclad gunboat), a celebration of music and the arts, as well as other new and long established small businesses.

On the Purple and Gold Bus Tour, we will visit the Global TransPark business and transportation complex. There, we'll learn about the new leadership and vision for the multimodal, industrial and business park and airport. This 2,500 acre complex helps support the manufacturing and logistics needs of the aviation, aerospace, defense, emergency response and advanced materials industries.

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WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne County was formed in 1779 from Dobbs County. It was named for Revolutionary War general “Mad Anthony” Wayne. Early inhabitants of the area included the Saponi and Tuscarora Indians, followed by English and Scotch-Irish settlers. The County’s largest city, Goldsboro (formerly Goldsborough), was incorporated in 1847 and replaced Waynesboro as the county seat in 1850.

Much like its neighbor, Lenoir County, Wayne County is a rural part of the state and has a long history of farming. Agriculture production in the county includes cucumbers, soybeans, tobacco, corn, wheat, vegetables, cotton, poultry, and swine.

Business in Wayne County is not limited to agriculture, however. Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, home to the 4th Fighter Wing and 916th Air Refueling Wing, landed in Goldsboro in 1942 and is one of the county’s biggest employers today. The University of Mount Olive, formerly Mount Olive College, was founded in the county in 1951. Manufactured products include pickles and relishes, furniture, apparel, commercial baking equipment, and electric transformers. It was announced in February of this year that Mount Olive Pickle Company is expanding to add two sites in Goldsboro which will create 167 new jobs in the county.

Providing recreational and tourism opportunities in the area, the Neuse River flows through Wayne County creating unique bluffs with multicolored faces along a stretch of the river. Located in Seven Springs, the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park welcomes residents and visitors to enjoy a hike or bike ride, explore the riverside and forest habitats or take advantage of a quiet, scenic fishing spot where bluegill, largemouth bass and catfish can be caught.

On the Purple and Gold Bus Tour, we will visit the Howell Farming Company and Wayne County Public Library in Goldsboro. Howell Farming Company produces top quality sweet potatoes and watermelons. Wayne County Public Library offers free educational events and activities as well as serves as a location for resources and information.



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REDE LEADERSHIP & STAFF



Mary Farwell | farwellm@ecu.edu

Mary Farwell earned her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. She serves as the assistant vice chancellor for research compliance, director of undergraduate research, and is a professor of biology. Farwell's research interests include mitochondrial regulation of cell death in cancer cells and student success in STEM.



Annette Kariko | karikoa21@ecu.edu

Annette Kariko received a bachelor of science from Florida State University and has an associate's degree in art. She came to ECU with over a decade of experience as a leader in the field of professional development. Previously, she worked with the Florida Department of Children and Families as the operations management consultant. Kariko is the director of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE).



Cassie Keel | keelc15@ecu.edu

Cassie Keel earned her bachelor's in psychology from East Carolina University and is currently enrolled in ECU's project management graduate certificate program. She is the university program support associate for the Office of Community Engagement and Research (OCER). Keel manages the SECU Public Fellows Internship program and supports other OCER efforts.



Jim Menke | menkej@ecu.edu

A 30-year retired Navy Master Chief, Jim Menke received his bachelor's and master's degrees in health sciences from Trident University. He joined ECU as the military research liaison and project manager for Operation Reentry North Carolina (ORNC). Menke currently serves as the director of national security initiatives at ECU, facilitating educational and research partnerships between ECU, the Department of Defense and other national security agencies. Formerly, Menke served on the staff of the Navy Surgeon General at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Washington, D.C.



Sharon Paynter | paynters@ecu.edu

Sharon Paynter earned her doctorate in public administration from North Carolina State University, her master's from the University of Denver, and her MPA and bachelor's degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is the assistant vice chancellor for economic and community engagement and is an associate professor of political science. Paynter's research interests include hunger, poverty and public policy.



Justin Pritchard | pritchardj20@ecu.edu

Justin Pritchard earned his bachelor's in marketing from East Tennessee State University and is currently enrolled in UNC Wilmington's MBA data analytics program. He is the Administrative Support Associate for the Office of Economic and Community Engagement. Justin currently provides administrative support to RISE29, Licensing and Commercialization, I-Corps, Continuing and Professional Education, and the Lifelong Learning Program.



Kim Tilghman | tilghmank22@ecu.edu

Kim Tilghman earned a bachelor's degree in Film Studies from UNC Wilmington. Tilghman spent nine years in various roles behind the scenes at a local news outlet and over five years as a local government communicator before joining the division as REDE's communication specialist. Tilghman oversees REDE's communication efforts with internal and external media outlets, while also maintaining the division's online presence.



Kathryn Verbanac | verbanack@ecu.edu

Kathryn Verbanac earned her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Iowa. Verbanac serves as the assistant vice chancellor for research development and advancement, director of postdoctoral affairs, and is a professor of surgery. Her breast cancer research focuses on the tissue microenvironment and immune signatures at metastatic sites.



Keith Wheeler | wheelerch18@ecu.edu

Keith Wheeler, a retired U.S. Navy captain, earned his master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College. Wheeler serves as the executive director of national security and industry initiatives. The Manteo native has held numerous leadership positions in the Navy, including commanding officer of U.S.S. McInerney where he led the Navy's first at-sea autonomous flight tests of the Fire Scout unmanned aerial vehicle. Wheeler also served as the chief of staff at DARPA – the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency charged with creating breakthrough technologies and capabilities for national security.



Officials with East Carolina University, Elliott Sidewalk Communities and the city of Greenville break ground on the first phase of Intersect East. (Photos by Cliff Hollis).

BREAKING GROUND

Work to begin on first phase of Intersect East

PUBLISHED OCT 06, 2021 BY [KEN BUDAY](#)

Gold-colored shovels turned ceremonial dirt Tuesday as Intersect East kicked off its first phase in redevelopment of East Carolina University's former warehouse district.

Developer Elliott Sidewalk Communities joined with university officials, Board of Trustees members, and local and state leaders in breaking ground on the \$40 million project to renovate three buildings on the 19-acre tract off 10th Street and within sight of ECU's new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building.

"Intersect East will be a vital connection between businesses, industries, communities and individuals that partner with East Carolina University, with faculty, staff and students finding solutions to tomorrow's problems," said Merrill Flood, director of ECU's Millennial Campus planning and local community affairs.

The first phase includes 10,000 square feet in the former Export Leaf Building for the College of Engineering and Technology's new digital transformation center that will cater to new and existing companies.

"They will work with companies, industries and others in areas of digital transformation, product prototyping, discoveries and workforce development," Flood said. "This will continue to shape Greenville's history as a center of excellence and economic development for the region, the state and the nation."

Tim Elliott, managing partner of Elliott Sidewalk Communities, anticipates completion of the first phase of the project in December 2022. He said several companies, including one from Raleigh and another from Brazil, have shown interest in becoming tenants in the development. He thanked ECU and Greenville officials for having a vision for a project many dubbed a gateway to the city and the university.

"We're here at the intersection of history and technology and the future," Elliott said.

Chancellor Philip Rogers called the ceremony a chance to celebrate the best of the university and the best of Greenville.



ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers, right, talks with Tim Elliott, managing partner of Elliott Sidewalk Communities, before the groundbreaking for the first phase of Intersect East.

“We can be loud and proud and excited about the future of East Carolina University here on the millennial campus of Intersect East,” Rogers said. “... What an exciting milestone this is for our community.”

The lease agreement between ECU and Elliott Sidewalk Communities to develop the innovation hub was approved by the UNC Board of Governors in 2020 as a public-private partnership. Public-private partnerships are collaborations in which private companies invest in public projects for a return while shielding public entities, like universities, from risk.

Tuesday’s ceremony marked the first step in a broad eight-year plan that includes a more than \$150 million investment to renovate 14 buildings and create green space, office space, dining and residential living. Along with that comes an estimated 1,500 jobs with a financial impact exceeding \$141 million annually with \$3 million in annual tax revenues, according to the developer.

“One of the things I love the most about Greenville, North Carolina, is that we know how to get things done and we come together,” Rogers said. “We know how to get things done, and nobody can stop us. I’ve seen it time and time again, and Intersect East is just that. It’s the very essence of the spirit of this community coming together to get something big done here in Greenville, North Carolina. It’s the intersection of a vision that bridges together our very best assets into a hub of innovation.”

Work on the first three buildings — dubbed The Prizery, The Stemmary and The Hammock Factory — is expected to start within weeks, with large orange and white barriers already on site to cordon off the area.

Rogers emphasized the work of so many to make the project a reality. As someone who grew up in Greenville, he said the city has changed so much since his youth, and Intersect East is the next project to move the university and city forward.

“Whether it’s growth in our educational assets, our physical infrastructure, our medical enterprise here in Greenville, our industrial partners, our arts and dining facilities, our amenities and so many others, we really are fortunate to live, to work and to play in a dynamic, vibrant eastern North Carolina community,” he said. “As we gather to celebrate the real beginning of the next great transformative moment, this next great wave point, this milestone in our collective history, it’s something that we’ve dreamed of; a time when we can leverage our millennial designation with this acreage into a space of innovation, education, research, entrepreneurship and opportunities to collide together and generate smart growth among our communities.



Merrill Flood, director of ECU’s Millennial Campus planning and local community affairs, speaks during Tuesday’s groundbreaking ceremony for Intersect East.

“We really do stand in a district today that was once a vibrant economic center within our community, and now we’re going to embark together with Elliott Sidewalk Communities and many others into a period that will once again bring vibrancy to this land and to this area.”

He said Intersect East is just one more way ECU will play a role in transforming eastern North Carolina.

“I often say that ECU has to be inextricably linked with our community in order to advance our mission of public service, of student success and of regional transformation,” Rogers said. “And I’ve said since the very beginning that in order for ECU to thrive, we have to be a mission-aligned institution, we have to be a future-focused institution and an innovation-driven institution, and I really believe that this captures the essence, that this project captures the epitome of that work in action.”

Learn more about the Intersect East project online at www.intersecteast.com

ALONG THE NC COAST, THE CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE IS EMBRACING ITS DARK SIDE



BY GARETH MCGRATH
USA TODAY NETWORK
DEC. 23, 2021

Probably best known for its miles of unspoiled beaches and signature lighthouse, Cape Lookout is now getting recognized for what it doesn't have: lights.

The national seashore, squeezed between Ocracoke Island and Bogue Banks, was certified this month as a Dark Sky Place. The designation by the International Dark Sky Association recognizes the exceptional quality of the night skies of the park and the opportunities it provides for astronomy-based experiences for visitors.

"There aren't too many places on the East Coast where you can get away from all of the ambient light," said Jeff West, superintendent of the nearly 30,000-acre national seashore that consists of a series of stringy barrier islands. "But out here, the stars just seem like they're right there. It's really awe-inspiring."

The Dark Sky Program, founded in 2001, encourages areas around the world to preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education. Cape Lookout is the only National Park Service site on the East Coast that has received the designation.

Convincing residents and other neighbors of the seashore that a Dark Sky certification wouldn't bring with it any additional bureaucratic red tape took some doing, said Vermadel Nienstedt, a member of the Crystal Coast Stargazers, which headlined the push to get the designation, and a Down East native.

"We were at it for two years, and there were some tough discussions," she said. "But once we explained the differences in lighting and how any changes would likely be very minor and how they could also end up having other benefits, like for wildlife, they were very supportive."

The certification process required officials to evaluate the light fixtures within the national seashore and surrounding areas. West said that led to some light fixtures getting replaced, others tweaked, to meet dark-sky-friendly lighting requirements. The lighthouse also had to pass muster, which wasn't a problem since the old powerful beam had been replaced with a less powerful LED beacon late last decade after the electric cable that powered the light was taken out of service due to age and corrosion issues.

The designation also requires an annual review and development of a plan to protect the seashore's dark skies.

'Bursting with pride'

So is all the paperwork, meetings and annual lighting reviews just to look at stars worth it?

Without a doubt, West said, and the impacts go well beyond the economics of drawing new and more stargazers to the coast — especially during the slow winter months when the coast is largely free of tourists but the cosmos looks its best.

“The stars are just so great out here, but I don’t think most people know about it,” he said. “We’ve forgotten about the night skies. We don’t look up anymore because we’re too busy, have too many things pulling at us.

“But we’re here in year two of the pandemic, and people are toast, and sometimes you need something that says we’re not the big deal, that there’s a lot more out there in the universe to consider. Plus, it’s just really cool.”

West added that the expected popularity of the Dark Skies certification also opens up more opportunities



to educate visitors about the vital role the national seashore plays in the environment, both as a wildlife sanctuary and as a protective storm-slowing speed bump for developed areas inland. That’s seen an especially important as climate change is forecast to bring more frequent and powerful tropical systems to the coast.

Cape Lookout now joins more than 190 places around the world that are part of the Dark Skies initiative to limit light pollution and protect the nighttime sky.

While the Crystal Coast Stargazers already puts on numerous astronomy outreach programs, many in conjunction with the national seashore, Nienstedt said the club expects to ramp up those efforts and work with local businesses and officials to capitalize on the national seashore’s new star power.

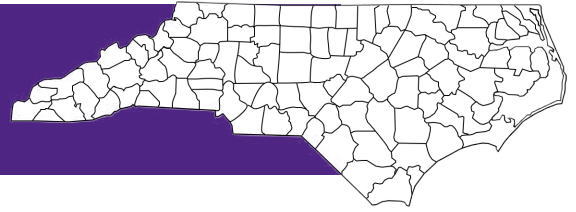
“We’ve been enjoying this for years, and now it’s just really exciting that we’re going to be able to share it with everyone,” she said. “We’re just bursting with pride.”

It also is the third Dark Sky Park in North Carolina, joining the Mayland Earth to Sky Park & Bare Dark Sky Observatory, formerly the Blue Ridge Observatory and Star Park, in Yancey County and the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute in Transylvania County.





CARTERET COUNTY SPEAKERS



Karen Amspacher

Director, Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center

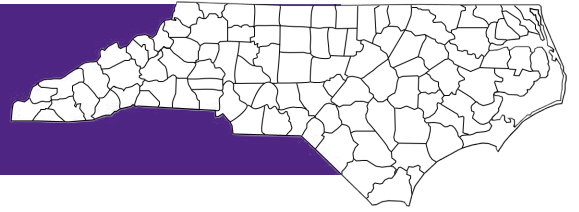
Karen Willis Amspacher is a native of Harkers Island, where her family has been a part of the boatbuilding and fishing traditions for generations. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University and editor of several community publications, including *The Mailboat* and Harkers Island's *Island Born & Bred*. As founding director of the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center, she has engaged community members in all facets of museum programming and has served as the community liaison for documentary projects with the Southern Oral History Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, the N Council, Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies, and the Smithsonian.



George Aswald and Island Express Ferry Service

On this gorgeous 15-20 minute ferry ride to Cape Lookout, you may catch a glimpse of the Shackleford Banks horses, bottlenose dolphins, sea turtles, and more! Cape Lookout offers something amazing for every traveler, whether you're interested in collecting the most beautiful seashells in the area, going for a swim, or exploring the lighthouse. Discovering the North Carolina shoreline starts with an Island Express ferry ride. Hear compelling accounts of the historic beginnings of "Diamond City," a community of hundreds who lived on "The Banks," enduring unruly weather and hardship only to be forced out by one final, vicious storm. Hear tell of testimony from your narrators about the Banker horses, the Mail Boat Run, Shell Point, and Browns Island

CARTERET COUNTY SPEAKERS



Paul Ellis

Marine Parts and Salvage Manager, Jarrett Bay Boatworks

Paul Ellis, a North Carolina native from Goldsboro, is the Marine Parts and Salvage Manager at Jarrett Bay. Ellis keeps the marine parts and salvage operations running smoothly thanks to his vast experience in outside sales. His sales background in power transmissions, motion control and automated systems made the transition to the intricate parts use in marine applications a natural process.



Peyton Lanier

Marine Engineer, Jarrett Bay Boatworks

Peyton Lanier joined Jarrett Bay in 2018 as a marine engineer. As the newest member of the new construction design team, he brings refreshing and unique perspective to the design process while collaborating alongside the rest of the team and customers to deliver world-class custom sportfish innovations.

Lanier grew up in central Florida, enjoying as much time as he could on the water fishing, boating and hunting. He has been a boat owner for as long as he can remember and knew that this passion was what he wanted to build his career around. In addition to earning his captains license in 2017, he received his Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Florida State University in 2018. He worked in the boating industry in Florida throughout his undergraduate experience, and in his final year, interned at Jarrett Bay. Upon graduation, Lanier moved to Beaufort, NC to begin his career with Jarrett Bay.



Randy Ramsey

Founder and President, Jarrett Bay Boatworks

Randy Ramsey is the founder and president of Jarrett Bay Boatworks and a principal at Bluewater Yacht Sales. He has been involved in almost every aspect of the boating and fishing industries from running a successful charter fishing operation to co-founding the Harker's Island Sportfishing School, and serving as a marine surveyor and consultant. He earned his USCG captain's license at 18, and today is proud to be at the helm of the world's leading custom boat construction and service facility.

Rasmey lives in Carteret County, North Carolina, and is a very active member of numerous local and regional boards. Most notably, Ramsey has served on the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament's Board since 1987, serving as president for two terms. He also serves on the boards of the North Carolina Manufacturer's Association and the American Boat Builders & Repairers Association, was a past Vice Chair and Chairman (2020 - 2022) of the Board of Governors for the University of North Carolina System, past President of The North Carolina State University Student Aid Association and past member of the North Carolina State University Board of Trustees.



ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers, left, and Col. Mikel Huber, commanding officer at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, shake hands after signing an agreement that will allow university courses to be taught on the base. (Marine Corps photos by Lance Cpl. Jacob Bertram)

CONNECTION TO THE CORPS

ECU to begin offering classes at MCAS Cherry Point

PUBLISHED NOV 08, 2021 BY [KEN BUDAY](#)

East Carolina University and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point have joined forces to help with educational opportunities for military and Department of Defense personnel on the base.

Chancellor Philip Rogers and Col. Mikel Huber, commanding officer at Cherry Point, signed a memorandum of understanding during a base ceremony on Friday that clears the way for the face-to-face instruction of ECU industrial technology, and distribution and logistics courses on the base.

“We are excited to offer the Bachelor of Science in industrial distribution and logistics and the B.S. in industrial technology degree programs at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point,” Rogers said. “Designed to accommodate working professionals and the military, these degree programs offer maximum flexibility for students to be enrolled in academic programs while maintaining their personal and professional obligations. This agreement is fully aligned with our mission and is an important step in our commitment to strengthen ties with the Marine Corps in the region.”

The classes will be available to active-duty personnel, reservists, eligible retired military personnel and Department of Defense employees.

“I’m glad we have the chance to put this in writing and let our community know of the emerging educational opportunities that are available here,” Huber said.

He said the 80-year-old air station is in a period of transformation in preparation for the new F-35B Joint Strike Fighter, which includes a large upgrade in infrastructure.

“I feel like the timing is good to bring these programs here and offer tremendous educational opportunities to our personnel and families,” he said.

Dr. Harry Ploehn, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, said ECU would staff an office in Cherry Point’s Jerry Marvel Training and Education building and may be able to offer some eight-week block classes as early as the middle of the spring semester.

“We’re going to be offering some of the foundational courses for these programs face-to-face,” he said. “As students progress and gain confidence and potentially move on if they are transitioning out of the military or being transferred, they’ll be able to continue those degree programs online wherever they are.”

Ploehn said the agreement to support military personnel in their educational goals reinforces ECU's motto of serve, to serve.

"We need to serve this population, and that's our mission. It's fundamentally what we're supposed to be doing," he said. "We want to be there for them, to help coach them like we coach our athletes. In partnership with the Cherry Point staff and the military commands, we want to help coach these students on a pathway toward more advanced credentials that will help them be successful when they transition out of the military."

Ploehn said the industrial technology as well as the distribution and logistics programs can help military personnel and defense department employees enhance their current careers or help them transition to jobs in the growing pharmaceutical, manufacturing, boat building and aviation sectors in eastern North Carolina.

"These degree programs and others that we would like to bring in the future are great programs and life-changing programs for those who complete them," Ploehn said. "They are able to have great job opportunities and high-paying job opportunities no matter where they are. ... There is a lot of industry growth going on in North Carolina and specifically eastern North Carolina, and we need the skilled workforce to help power that engine. It's a winning situation for everyone involved. We can meet students where they are and help them get on that pathway."

Teresa Allen, education services officer at Cherry Point, sees a large benefit to having ECU join other universities offering classes on the base.

"Partnerships with accredited educational institutions create strategic investments in developing our service members both personally and professionally while enhancing our workforce," she said.

Offered through ECU's Department of Technology Systems, the industrial technology program prepares professionals for roles that involve the management, operation and maintenance of complex technological systems through the development of technical, business and communication skills. The program offers eight concentrations, six of which can be completed entirely online. Concentrations include information and computer technology, industrial supervision, manufacturing systems, distribution and logistics, bioprocess manufacturing, health information technologies, architectural technology and mechanical technology.

The BSIT program is a degree completion curriculum designed for students who have been awarded a qualified Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in an industrial or technical related field.

Industrial distribution and logistics encompasses all the elements and transportation methods of the supply chain, from raw materials to the final customer. Distribution and logistics managers coordinate the movement of goods, services and information throughout the world. ECU's program provides the study of a variety of functions performed by distributors such as supply chain management, warehousing, transportation, industrial sales, inventory management, strategic pricing and purchasing.

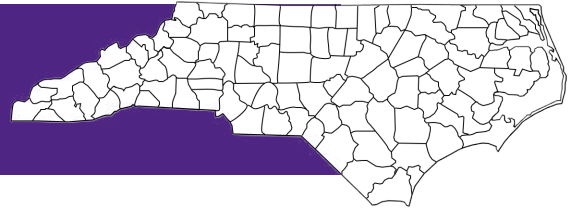
Ploehn said many people worked many hours to make the agreement happen, including Dr. Tijjani (TJ) Mohammed, chair of the Department of Technology Systems; Keith Wheeler, executive director of ECU's Office of National Security and Industry Initiatives; Jeff Netznik, associate director for military outreach, academic outreach and distance education; Amy Frank, instructor and director of community college and military outreach for the Department of Technology Systems; Grant Hayes, interim provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs; Allen Guidry, assistant dean of planning and global education; and staff in Cherry Point's education services office as well as base leadership.



ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers signs a memorandum of understanding that signifies a partnership with Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point that will allow university courses to be taught face-to-face on the base.

Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Bertram from Cherry Point's Communication, Strategy and Operations section contributed to this story.

CRAVEN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Gery Boucher
Craven CC Vice President for Students

Gery Boucher joined Craven Community College in 1998. With more than 21 years of experience in higher education, he has held multiple roles within the college including counselor, history instructor, and Havelock campus dean. In 2011, Gery worked as the Education Branch Manager for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune before returning to Craven CC in 2014 as the Associate Vice President for Workforce Solutions. Since 2016 he has served as Vice President for Students. This position has responsibilities for oversight to Student Services, Workforce Development, the Volt Center, and Marketing. Gery served as Swansboro Town Commissioner from 2011-2015. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in counseling from ECU. In October 2021, he earned a Doctor of Education with a specialization in Higher Education Leadership. Gery is a National Certified Counselor.



Eddie Foster
Craven CC Volt Center Dean

Eddie Foster is from Lynchburg, VA, where he still has a home and family. He graduated from Lynchburg College with a BA in Business Management. He worked for Babcock & Wilcox Naval Nuclear Fuels Division, where his primary responsibility was environmental compliance, and retired there as a part of the exempt management team of a 700-acre site with 2,500 employees. While there, he started two companies: Central VA Labs and Consultants and EnviroSafety group. He retired from the 23rd Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion in December 2004.

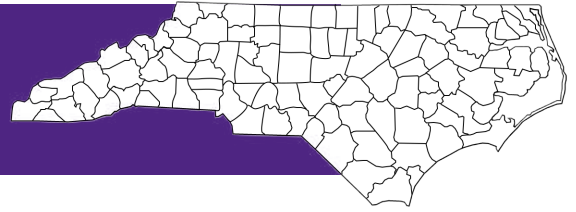
In 2006, Eddie started with the NC Community College System at Coastal Carolina Community College as a director. In 2010, he joined Craven Community College. He is now the Dean of the Volt Center, Craven CC's workforce development training center that offers hands-on learning in many trades. He directed the safety programs for the campuses in New Bern until January 2020, when he assumed responsibility for the Volt Center.



Jeff Schulze
Craven CC Director of Trade Programs, Volt Center

Jeff Schulze joined Craven Community College in 2013 as a coordinator in business, industry, and technology. He has over 20 years of experience in retail management, manufacturing, small business software development, and high school education as a Future Business Leaders of America Coordinator and business and computer programming instructor. He was the recipient of Craven Community College's coveted Staff Excellence Award for 2018-2019. He serves as Director of Trade Programs and is acting NCCER ATEF Director where he oversees the instructional delivery of construction trades classes at the Volt Center. Schulze recently earned his OSHA 30-Hour General Industry and 30-Hour Construction Safety and Health certificates.

CRAVEN COUNTY SPEAKERS



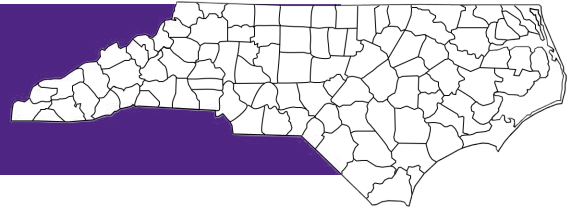
Amanda Ohlensehlen **City of New Bern Economic and Community** **Development Manager**

Amanda Ohlensehlen has been the Economic and Community Development Manager for the City of New Bern since May 2018. Housed in Development Services, her work focuses on carrying out the City's economic and workforce development goals, managing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Cities Program, and working with the New Bern Redevelopment Commission.

Since the devastating impacts of Hurricane Florence in September 2018, Ohlensehlen has worked on recovery, mitigation, resiliency, and grant writing initiatives for the City of New Bern. She led New Bern's citywide Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation Planning process, with the primary objective to increase community resiliency to flood hazards, including sea-level rise and climate change, and creating a framework that is replicable for other coastal communities in the Southeast.

Ohlensehlen has been employed in local government in Eastern North Carolina for the past 14 years. She holds a BS in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing from the University of Missouri and a Master of Science in Sustainable Tourism from ECU. She was recognized as the 2017 Outstanding Graduate Student for the College of Business for her mentorship and academic pursuits, while remaining employed full-time.

CRAVEN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Barb Krmar
Executive Director, Merci Clinic

Barb Krmar is a graduate from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in business management. She has lived in New Bern for the past 25 years and has been with Merci Clinic since 2018. Barb is the current Executive Director for Merci Clinic and has devoted her career to the nonprofit sector for the last 22 years.



Carol Winters-Thornburg
Board of Directors, Merci Clinic

Carol Winters-Thornburg, PhD, RN, CNE is a professor emerita of nursing at ECU College of Nursing. In 2006, after 16 years in Hawaii, she returned to her hometown, New Bern, and became an ECU Pirate faculty member where she served as professor and Director of the Nursing Education Concentration in the MSN program before retiring in May 2019. Her nursing clinical practice and research has focused in the areas of the childbearing family and women's health. Carol has volunteered as a RN at the MERCI Clinic in New Bern since 2006 and is currently a member and secretary of its Board of Directors.

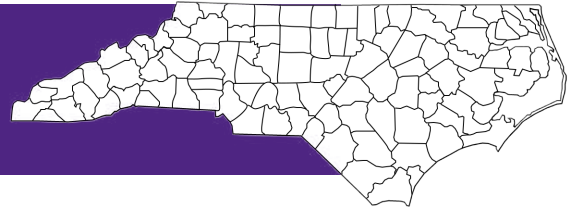


Colonel Thomas Atkinson, USMC
Commanding Officer, Fleet Readiness Center East

Col. Atkinson, who served as executive officer at FRC East from July 1, 2019, until assuming command in May of 2021, is a native of Port Townsend, Wash., and a graduate of the University of Washington. He was commissioned in June 1996 and assigned as an aircraft maintenance officer. In 2009, he was selected for lateral assignment as an acquisition officer.

Prior to his arrival at FRC East, Col. Atkinson held a variety of aircraft maintenance officer and acquisition assignments, including a tour with Marine Helicopter Squadron 1, commanding officer of FRC Western Pacific on Atsugi, Japan, and program manager for the Family of Special Operations Vehicles.

CRAVEN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Captain James Belmont, USN Executive Officer, Fleet Readiness Center East

Capt. Belmont is a native of Chicago, Illinois, and a 1994 graduate of Lewis University. Immediately after graduation, he enlisted in the Navy as an Aviation Maintenance Administrationman (AZ) and was later accepted for a direct commission through Officer Candidate School (OCS) in the Aviation Maintenance Duty Officer community in 1996. He attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, receiving his Master of Aviation Science/ Operations in 2002. In 2010, he was designated an Acquisition Corps member and has completed Level III certifications in Program Management, Acquisition Logistics, and Production, Quality, and Manufacturing. Capt. Belmont has served as the Executive Officer for Fleet Readiness Center East since May of 2021.



Matthew McCann Capability Establishment and Business Development Branch Head MRO Business Office, MRO Logistics Fleet Readiness Center East

Matt McCann serves as the Capability Establishment and Business Development Branch Head, MRO Business Office, MRO Logistics, for Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East), Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. He is responsible for a team of Business Specialists and Industrial Engineering Technicians, managing the establishment of all new Department of Defense and private partnership workload for one of the three primary Aviation Maintenance Depots in the United States Navy. He conducts business planning initiatives utilizing full spectrum logistics planning, ensuring there is an understanding of how new workload will tie into current and future aviation facilities, infrastructure, maintenance equipment, engineering, and production issues. McCann pursues new business workload opportunities for the depot, across multiple vehicles, tied to depot strengths, facilities, and capacity, all while ensuring FRC East is viewed as the premier depot across the Organic Industrial Base.



ECU

**SCHOOL OF
DENTAL MEDICINE**



A UNIQUE MODEL OF EDUCATION AND SERVICE

The School of Dental Medicine at East Carolina University uses a nationally unique model of education and patient care. Students receive classroom instruction and hands-on training in Ledyard E. Ross Hall on ECU's Health Sciences Campus, using the latest state-of-the-art technology and equipment and the most modern methods of treatment and care. During their fourth year, students complete three nine-week rotations at the school's statewide community service learning centers (CSLCs), giving them a well-rounded and diverse experience serving patient populations in different parts of North Carolina. The CSLCs are considered the "fifth floor" of Ross Hall, the on-campus home of the School of Dental Medicine, because of the hands-on learning experience they provide students.

The School of Dental Medicine's first of eight CSLCs opened in 2012 in Ahoskie, N.C. The centers were created in an effort to provide dental care to rural and underserved communities that were identified by school leaders and other local, state and university stakeholders. These communities and surrounding areas faced a shortage of dentists, and their residents demonstrated a variety of challenges—including financial and geographical—in accessing oral health care.

Through these CSLCs, the school has literally broken ground on setting a new standard—and pioneering model—for dental education, service, research and outreach. They are creating smiles across North Carolina and shaping tomorrow's dentists with minds geared toward service and care.

Community service learning centers locations:

**Ahoskie
Brunswick County
Davidson County
Elizabeth City**

**Lillington
Robeson County
Spruce Pine
Sylva**



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE FAST FACTS



More than **86,500**
patients treated
from all 100 counties.

Each CSLC provides an economic
impact of well over
\$1 MILLION
in its respective community.

\$123,500

AVERAGE ECU
DENTAL STUDENT DEBT

VS.

\$239,895

NATIONAL AVERAGE

The dental school focuses on
educating students from under-
represented, rural and
disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Class of 2025 is made up of
38% underrepresented students.



The school cares for special populations through programs like
SoDM's own **ECU Smiles for Veterans**, a partnership with nonprofit
and community agencies that has provided dental care for nearly

200 military veterans

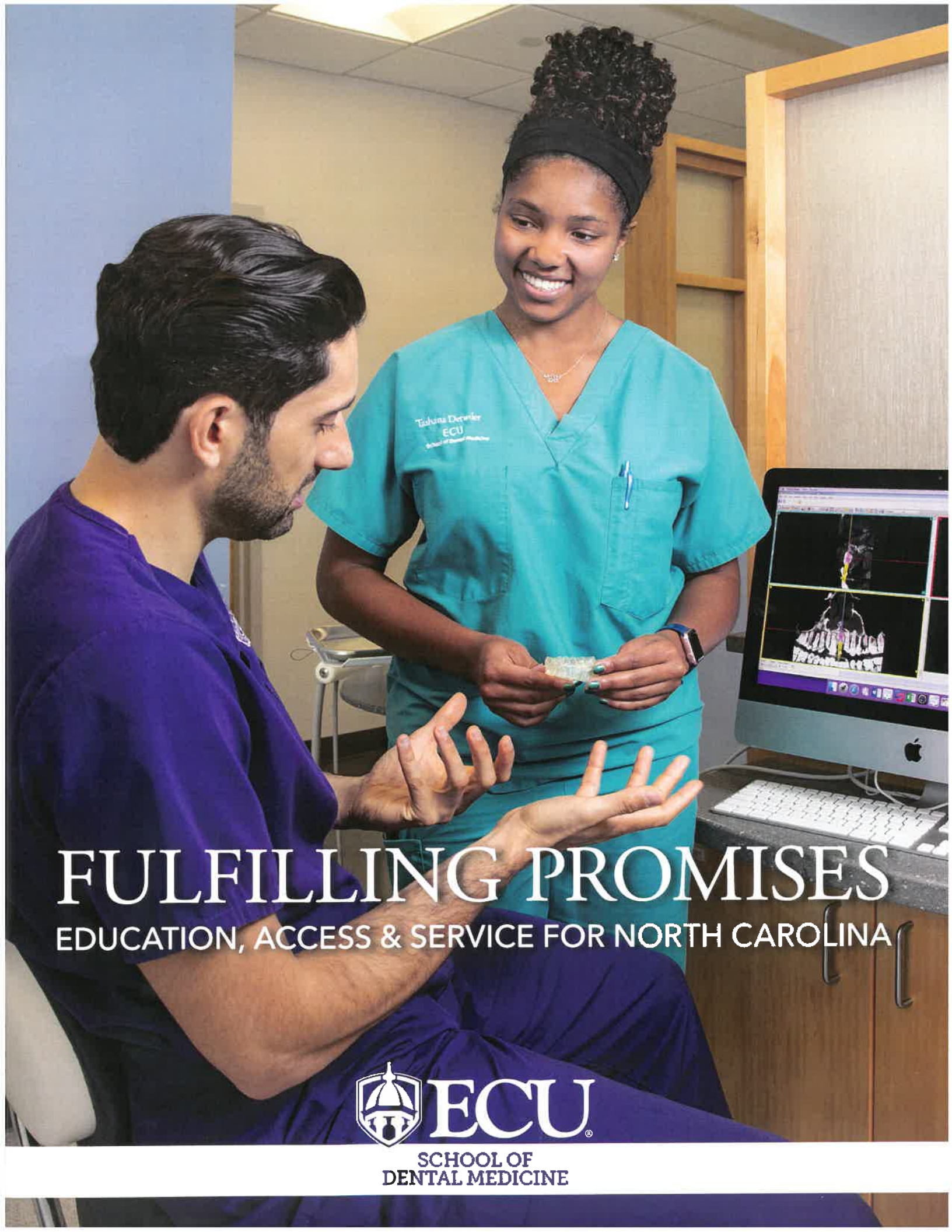
in western NC and Brunswick County.

More than **730** patients have been served through the
school's Patient Care Funds, which fully or partly cover the cost of
dental procedures for patients who meet certain financial criteria.
The funds are supported by gifts and donations from supporters
and friends.

**MORE THAN 90% OF
GRADUATES PRACTICE
IN NORTH CAROLINA**

More than 90% of ECU's dental graduates,
who have completed their residencies and
other educational obligations, are practicing
dentistry in 63 of North Carolina's 100 counties.





FULFILLING PROMISES

EDUCATION, ACCESS & SERVICE FOR NORTH CAROLINA



SCHOOL OF
DENTAL MEDICINE



GOING THE DISTANCE

East Carolina University's School of Dental Medicine has served more than 65,000 patients and graduated more than 250 new and promising dentists who are poised to serve our region, state and beyond.

That's 65,000 smiles strong – but even one makes a world of difference.


The School of Dental Medicine saw the need for improved access to dental care in our state and created a solution from the ground up. Our community service learning centers across the state – along with our clinics in Ledyard E. Ross Hall on ECU's Health Sciences Campus – provide students vital training opportunities. The school offers a hospital-based general dentistry residency program, where new graduates learn while treating medically complex patients. They also fulfill the promise to deliver dental care to those who need it most, all with leading-edge technology and equipment.

ECU's dental school is going the distance from the mountains to the coast on a mission to create and restore smiles in rural and underserved communities in our state.

Numbers don't always tell a story, but they are where ours began.

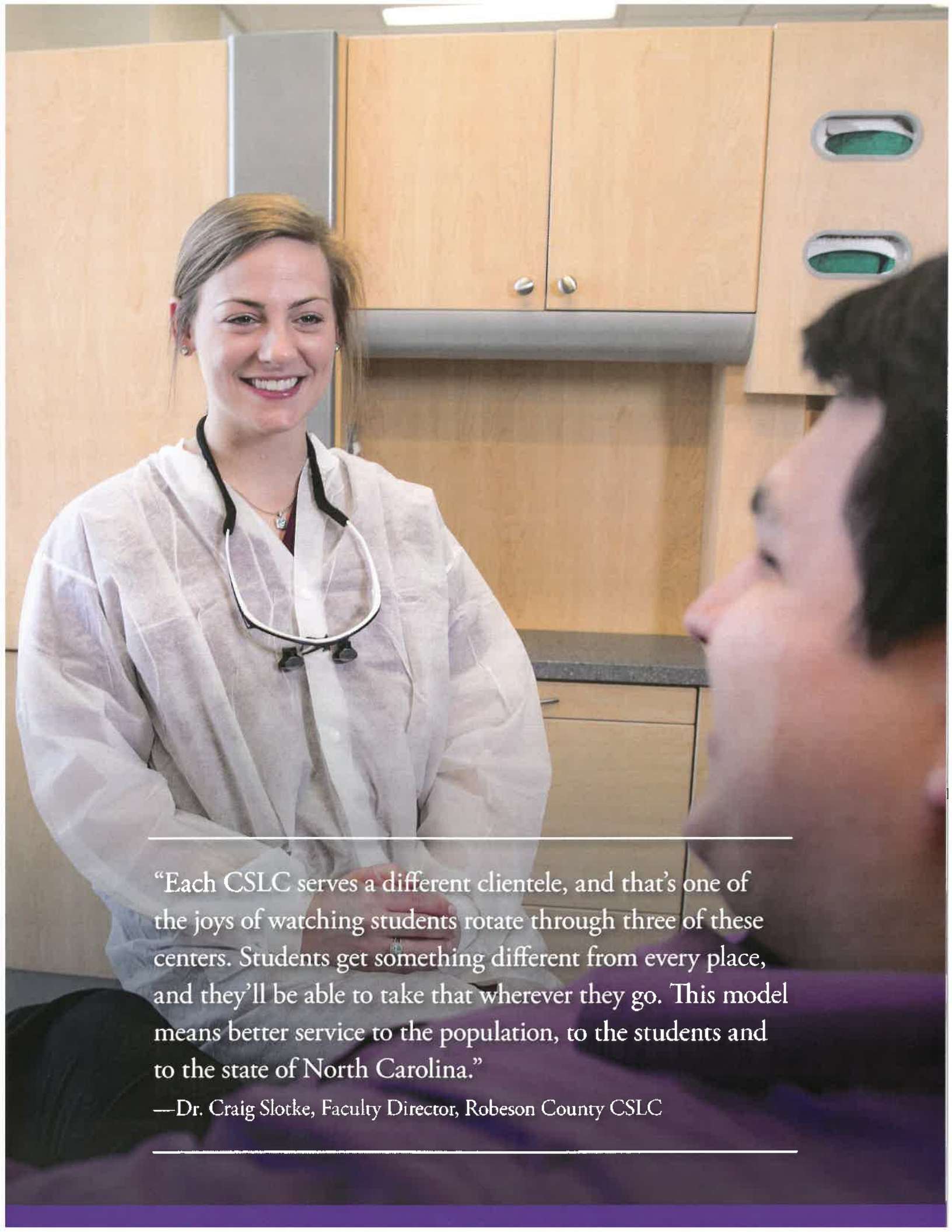
We're just getting started. North Carolina can count on that.

On the cover: Dr. Alex Gillone, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Sciences; and Tashana Detwiler, Class of 2021.



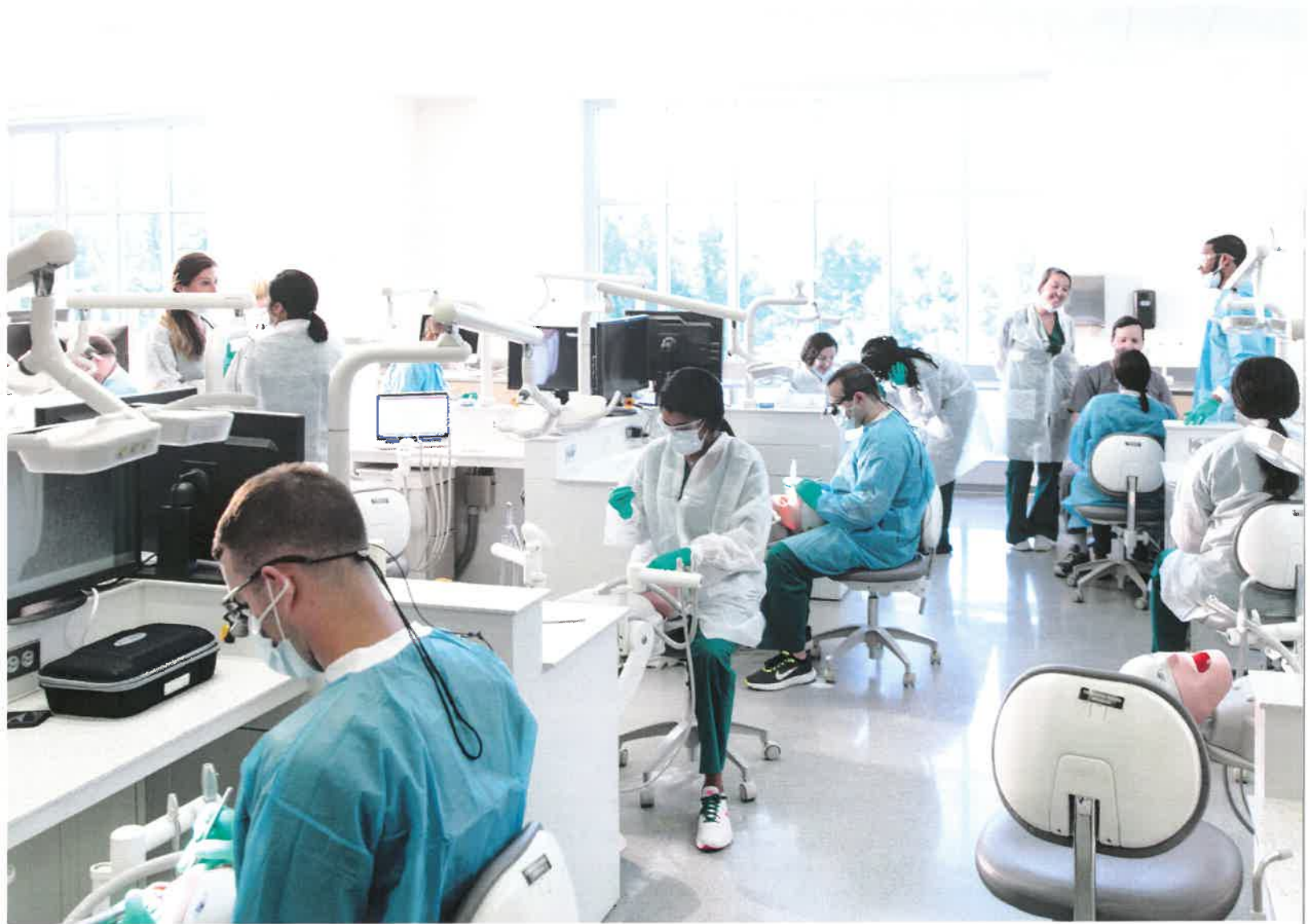
“The School of Dental Medicine has an absolutely unwavering focus on its mission and what it is here to do. From its first days, the school and its leaders, faculty, students and staff have embodied entrepreneurial spirit, tough resilience, quiet determination — and not least, an undaunted ability to view every problem as an opportunity.”

—Dr. Margaret Wilson, Vice Dean

A photograph of a woman in a white lab coat and stethoscope smiling at a man in a purple shirt. They are in a clinical setting with wooden cabinets and a countertop in the background. The woman is on the left, and the man is on the right, partially visible in profile. The image has a purple gradient at the bottom.

“Each CSLC serves a different clientele, and that’s one of the joys of watching students rotate through three of these centers. Students get something different from every place, and they’ll be able to take that wherever they go. This model means better service to the population, to the students and to the state of North Carolina.”

—Dr. Craig Slotke, Faculty Director, Robeson County CSLC



PRIORITIES

Since our earliest days, we have set out to gain ground in both training new dentists and finding ways to combat the oral health care disparities in our state. North Carolina is in the lowest 10% in the country for dentist to patient ratio.

While we have proven success, we need your help to continue our mission of education and service. Our greatest areas of need, based on our growth and goals, are detailed on the pages that follow.



OUTREACH AND INITIATIVES

Our community service learning centers were strategically and thoughtfully placed in the communities we now consider home. While we have been monumentally successful in reaching patients who had little or no access to care before, we are always thinking critically, looking for new ways to reach more patients. The CSLCs position us to offer resources including lesson plans for elementary- and middle-school-based preventive education, local and statewide “days of service,” and focused events like ECU Smiles for Veterans, which served 40 veterans in seven western North Carolina counties during its inaugural event in fall 2018.

PATIENT CARE FUNDS

The School of Dental Medicine’s Patient Care Funds were made possible by generous donors, including the school’s inaugural graduating class. The funds’ success is evident in the smiles of our patients. One of our priorities is to expand the funding available to patients in need, whose only obstacle to much-needed dental work is the financing. Our students learn to talk with patients about these topics with sensitivity and tact, and they get valuable practice helping patients apply for the funds and completing the paperwork and mapping out specific care plans based on available funding. The Patient Care Funds – which have received national recognition – have made the difference for patients not only by creating new smiles and bringing back hope, but by improving overall health – from screening for diabetes to restoring confidence and providing pain relief. These funds are motivating factors for our school, ones which we would like to see thrive and expand to more patients.



“Much of the success of any health care provider is establishing trust with your patients — a trust that breaks down barriers. We are a school that professes in our vision statement a responsibility to develop leaders. That leadership is fundamental to our success in educating students and improving health in our communities.”

—Dr. Rob Tempel, Associate Dean for Extramural Clinical Practices

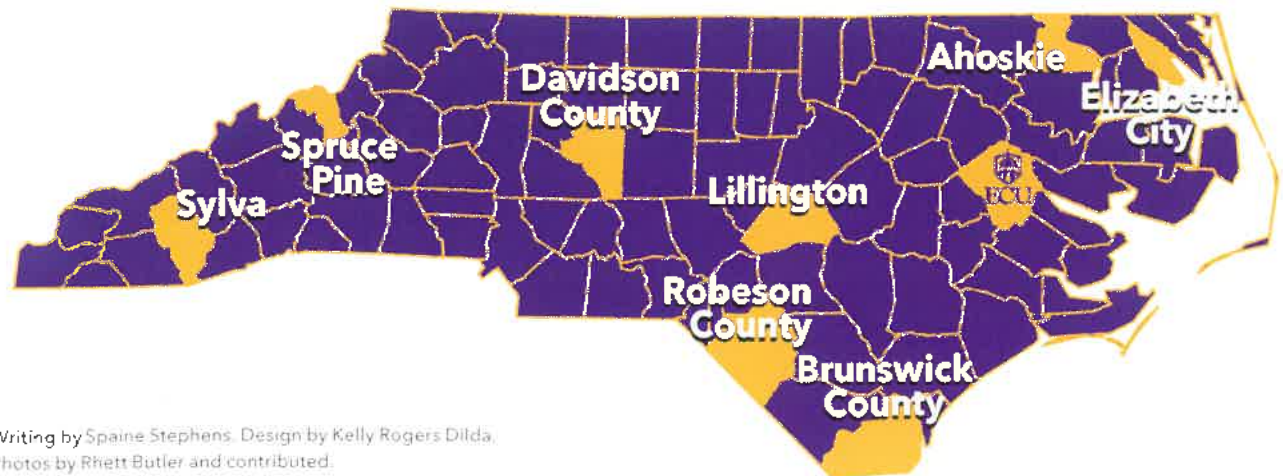


FOR MORE INFORMATION

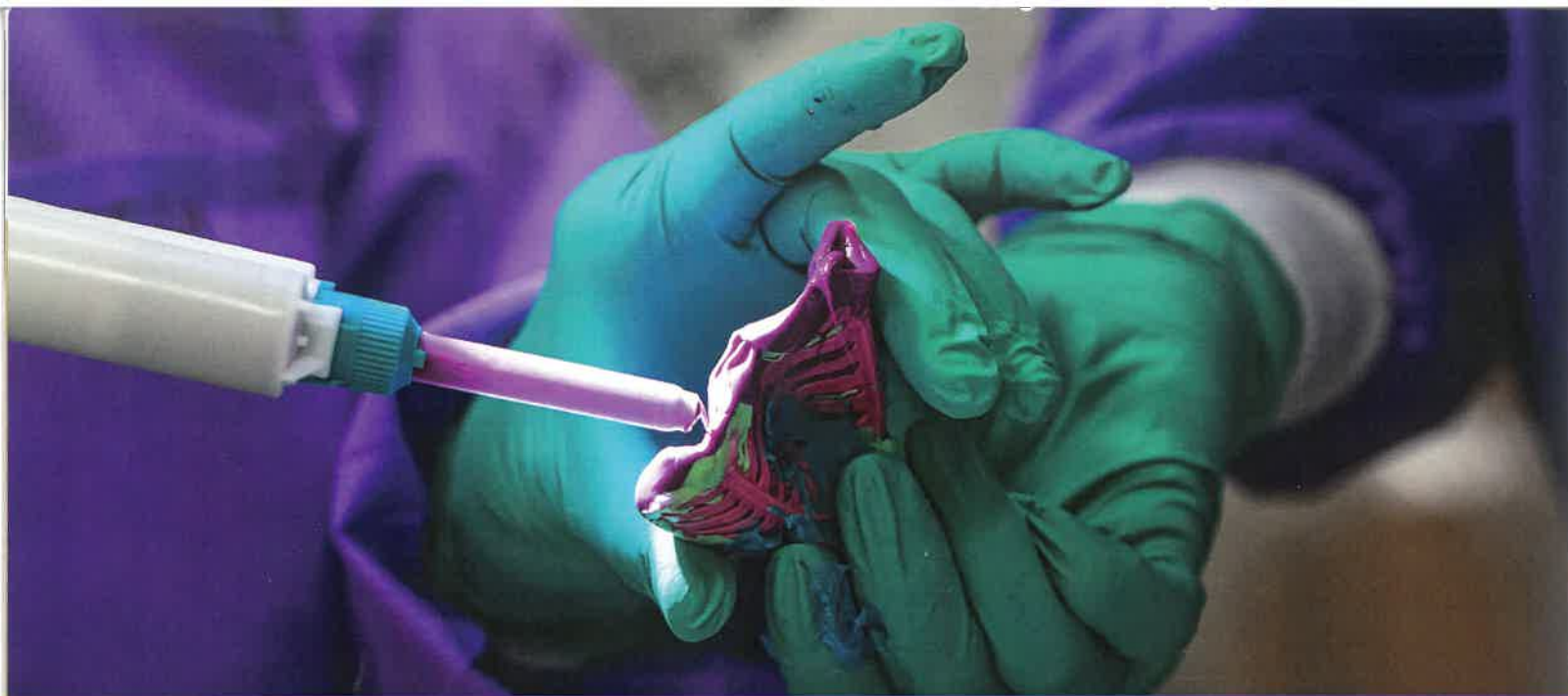
To learn more about how to partner with us on new and existing initiatives, please contact:

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 NOTESTINEM14@ECU.EDU
 WWW.ECU.EDU/DENTAL

The School of Dental Medicine's community service learning centers stretch from the Blue Ridge Mountains to coastal Brunswick County, strategically placed to be accessible to patients in and around some of our state's most rural and underserved communities. The CSLCs are the "fifth floor" of Ross Hall, and students and faculty who treat patients in these communities live the school's mission and stay in close contact with the school's hub through campus visits and teleconferencing (above).

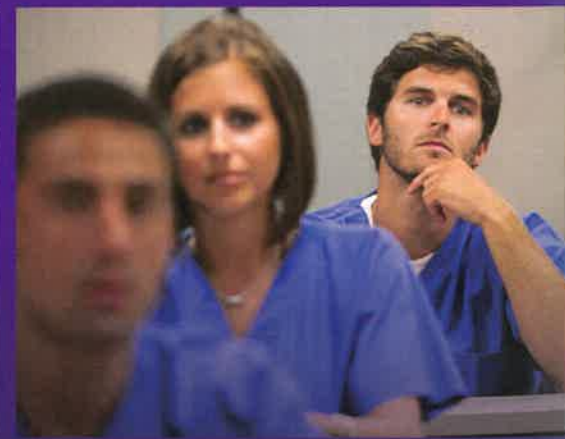


Writing by Spaine Stephens. Design by Kelly Rogers Dilda.
 Photos by Rhett Butler and contributed.
 500 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$1,328.62, or \$2.66 per copy.



“Our future is being forged by possibility and promise. Our past is a firm foundation built on entrepreneurial spirit and commitment — where we stand today is proof positive that we are living our mission of service and leadership. What is next for our school and our state will come from the calling in each of us to make oral health accessible for all.”

—Dr. Greg Chadwick, Dean



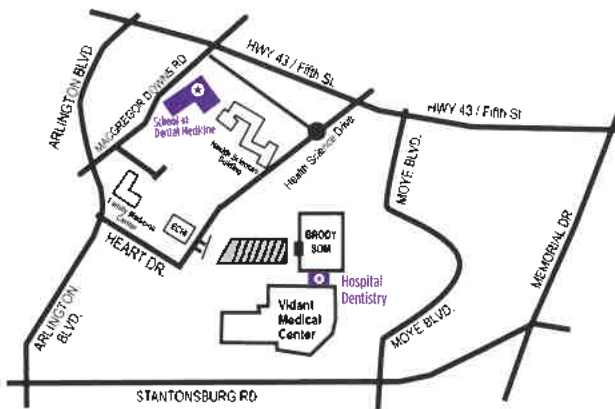
SCHOOL OF
DENTAL MEDICINE

Welcome to Our Dental School

Welcome, and thank you for choosing the ECU School of Dental Medicine to provide your dental care. We believe that oral health is an important part of overall health. Our students, faculty, residents, and staff are glad to be part of your health care team.

Our Locations

Our dental clinics are located on ECU's Health Sciences Campus in Ledyard E. Ross Hall at 1851 MacGregor Downs Road in Greenville, N.C., with the exception of the Hospital Dentistry Clinic, which is located at 600 Moye Boulevard in Greenville.



Our Clinics

Advanced Dentistry Suite (Ross Hall, 1st Floor)

Dental care in the Advanced Dentistry Suite is provided by residents in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program in conjunction with faculty. The residents have completed dental school and are gaining additional training in general dentistry. The suite includes treatment areas for emergency care, endodontics, and oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Comprehensive Care Clinic (Ross Hall, 2nd Floor)

In the Comprehensive Care Clinic or “student clinic,” students in our predoctoral DMD program provide a wide range of dental care services for patients under the supervision of faculty. As a patient in this clinic, you may be asked to make a few extra visits in order to complete your dental work. We value your partnership and will provide you with compassionate, high quality care.

Emergency Care Clinic (Ross Hall, 1st Floor)

We are very pleased to offer emergency dental care to the community. Patients who have been assigned to a student or faculty provider (patient of record) may call the provider to schedule emergency care. New patient emergency appointments may be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Walk-in emergencies are taken as availability permits.

Faculty Practice (Ross Hall)

Our faculty provide comprehensive oral health care for patients of all ages. As a patient, you will have access to providers in every aspect of oral health care under one roof. Our Faculty Practice includes a team of general dentists and dental hygienists along with specialists in endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral medicine, oral pain, periodontics, and prosthodontics.

Hospital Dentistry (600 Moye Boulevard, Greenville, N.C.)

Residents in our General Practice Residency (GPR) program and faculty at our Hospital Dentistry Clinic provide comprehensive and emergency dentistry for all, but they are especially well trained in providing full service dental care for medically complex and hospitalized patients. Please call 252-744-4618 to make an appointment.

Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics Clinic (Ross Hall, 1st Floor)

Students, pediatric dentistry residents, and faculty provide comprehensive preventive and restorative dentistry and orthodontics for children and adolescents up to 15 years old in our bright and cheerful Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics Clinic.

Our Services Include

- Children's Dentistry
- Complete and Partial Dentures
- Comprehensive General Dentistry
- Cosmetic Tooth Whitening
- Crowns and Bridges
- Dental Hygiene and Preventive Services
- Dentures and Partial Dentures
- Digital Radiography
- Emergency Dentistry
- Hospital Dentistry
- Hygienist Services
- Implant Services (Surgical and Restorative)
- Nonsurgical and Surgical Periodontics
- Oral Medicine
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Periodontal Services and Cleanings
- Root Canals (Endodontics)
- Sealants and Tooth Colored Fillings
- Sleep Apnea Treatment
- Special Needs Dentistry
- TMD & Orofacial Pain Treatment
- Veneers



Make an Appointment

For information or to schedule an appointment in one of our Ross Hall clinics, please call 252-737-7834 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment at our Hospital Dentistry Clinic, please call 252-744-4618.

First Visit

The first visit for adult patients is a screening appointment to allow faculty and students to assess your oral health and make sure your needs and expectations are a good match for the educational growth of our students. Children receive a comprehensive exam at their first visit.

Patient Registration Forms

To save time at your first visit, you are welcome to print and complete the Patient Registration Forms located on our website at www.ecu.edu/dental. Please bring the completed forms with you.

Fees and Payment

Generally, our fees correspond with the educational level of our dental care providers. Because of our educational environment, our student and resident clinics offer discounted fees. Faculty Practice fees are comparable with local private practices.

Medicaid and most private dental insurance plans are accepted. We accept cash, credit cards, and personal checks. Patient care representatives will assist you with questions concerning fees and insurance.

Commitment to Appointments

Dentistry is most effective when the patient is as committed to the appointment as the dental team. In the event of a scheduling conflict, we request a 24-hour notice to allow another patient to use the appointment time.

Academic Programs

Our school's academic programs include the pre-doctoral program leading to a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree and post-doctoral Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency, General Practice Residency (GPR), and Pediatric Dentistry Residency.

Other Locations State Wide

The ECU School of Dental Medicine provides dental care for patients at our Community Service Learning Centers in Ahoskie, Brunswick County, Davidson County, Elizabeth City, Lillington, Robeson County, Spruce Pine, and Sylva, North Carolina. To learn how to become a patient, visit www.ecu.edu/dental.

Our Vision

The vision of the ECU School of Dental Medicine is to improve the health and quality of life of all North Carolinians by creating leaders with a passion to care for the underserved and by leading the nation in community-based, service learning oral health education.

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the event at (252) 737-1018 / ada-coordinator@ecu.edu

♻️ Printed on recycled paper. 2,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$665.36, or \$ 332 per copy. M/SOD 00/862 (Rev. 3/20)



ECU Dental Clinics

School of Dental Medicine
Ledyard E. Ross Hall
1851 MacGregor Downs Road
Mail Stop# 701
Greenville, NC 27834-4354

252-737-7834
www.ecu.edu/dental

About the Centers

ECU School of Dental Medicine Community Service Learning Centers exemplify the Dental School's vision to improve the health and quality of life of all North Carolinians by educating primary care dentists with a passion to care for the underserved and by leading the nation in community-based, service learning oral health education.

Faculty, student, and resident providers are committed to offering comprehensive general dental services for adults, children, and special needs patients in a safe, caring, and professional setting.

Appointments

Our centers are open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. to serve you. We ask that you keep your appointed time or provide a 24-hour notice of appointment change. Parents or legal guardians are asked to accompany minor children.

Payment for Services

Faculty, students, and residents provide dental care at reduced cost. Medicaid and most dental insurance plans are accepted. If you have dental insurance, patient representatives will assist you with your claim submission.

Emergencies

Emergency services are provided Monday through Friday on a walk-in basis. After hours emergency services will be provided for patients of record as required.

Services

Comprehensive General Dentistry
Children's Dentistry
Oral Surgery – Extractions
Root Canals
Sealants and Tooth Colored Fillings
Crowns and Bridges
Dentures and Partial Dentures
Implant Services
Periodontal Services and Cleanings
Cosmetic Tooth Whitening
Soft Tissue Laser
Digital Radiography
3-D/Cone Beam Imaging

Call to Schedule An Appointment:

Ahoskie

100 Health Center Drive
Ahoskie, NC 27910
Phone 252-332-1904

Brunswick County

100 Brunswick Medical Center Parkway, NE
Bolivia, NC 28422
Phone 910-253-9000

Davidson County

1235 Davidson Community College Road
Thomasville, NC 27360
Phone 336-236-0165

Elizabeth City

1161 North Road Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Phone 252-331-7225

Lillington

80 Autumn Fern Trail
Lillington, NC 27546
Phone 910-814-4191

Robeson County

600 Country Club Road
Lumberton, NC 28360
Phone 910-737-6457

Spruce Pine

179 Hospital Drive
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Phone 828-765-0110

Sylva

316 County Services Park
Sylva, NC 28779
Phone 828-586-1200





**For Additional
Information, Contact**

**East Carolina University
School of Dental Medicine**
Ledyard E. Ross Hall
1851 MacGregor Downs Road
Mail Stop #701
Greenville, NC 27834

252-737-7834 Main
252-737-7049 Fax

www.ecu.edu/dental

*Committed to offering
comprehensive general
dental services in a
safe, caring and
professional setting
to all patients.*

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university, which
accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

2,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of 673.40, or \$.34 per copy.
MSOD 007361 (Rev. 3/20)



*Community Service
Learning Centers
in North Carolina*

STORY BY SPAINE STEPHENS

2011



2021

A DYNAMIC DECADE



Several years ago, Victoria Hardy stared out the window of an East Carolina University Transit bus at Ledyard E. Ross Hall, the new home of the School of Dental Medicine on the northwestern edge of ECU's Health Sciences Campus.

"I remember when they were almost done building it, and I was on the bus out front just staring at that building like, 'I'm going to be there one day,'" says Hardy, now a fourth-year dental student looking forward to providing oral health care for patients in eastern North Carolina.

Hardy, her classmates and alumni who have practices, careers and futures that stretch across North Carolina are part of the School of Dental Medicine's legacy as it celebrates 10 years of educating new dentists for North Carolina.

The first class of students began in 2011 and graduated in 2015, setting a standard with a unique model of education and patient care. Today, 90% of the school's 357

"We intentionally focus on our mission and keeping our promise to the state," Dr. Greg Chadwick, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, says of the school's goals of educating dentist leaders and providing care in rural and underserved areas, "and that resonates with the people of North Carolina, it resonates with the university and it's a mission that resonates with the future of ECU."

Before the first class graduated, North Carolina ranked 47th nationally for dentist-to-patient ratio. Now, the state now ranks around the mid- to high-30s, a trend Dr. Margaret Wilson, vice dean of the school, attributes in part to the newest generation of dentists from ECU.

"It's a pretty significant impact that those ECU graduates are already having in communities across the state," she says.

Statistics like that are what fuel ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers as well. His history with ECU is woven into the fabric of the dental school's beginnings; from 2007 to 2013, he held various positions that allowed him a role

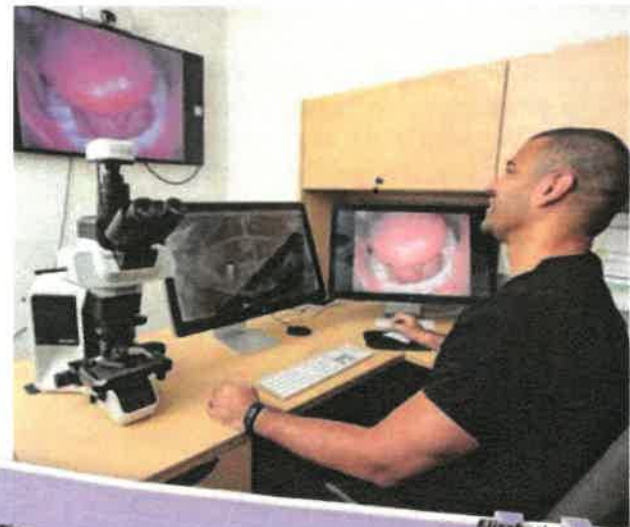
in creating the school. From policy analyst to legislative liaison to chief of staff, Rogers spent hours strategizing and working with decision-makers at every level to make the school a reality.

His return to ECU in early 2021 coincides with the school's 10-year milestone.

"It's absolutely surreal to look at this facility that was nothing but a dream," Rogers said. "It took a village to build this facility, and now this facility is literally changing the lives of thousands and thousands of dental patients across the state of North Carolina. It's unfathomable that it's been 10 years. It feels just like yesterday we were imagining what the future would look like, who we would serve, how we would serve, where would we serve them."

'Community service entrepreneurs'

The School of Dental Medicine's community service-learning centers operate in eight North Carolina communities, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the coastal town of Bolivia in Brunswick County. Patients and rural communities across the state benefit from oral health care, education and specialized programming and events designed over the years with the area's greatest needs in mind.





Ross Hall is named for Greenville orthodontist **Dr. Ledyard E. Ross '51**, who made a \$4 million gift to the dental school for student scholarships, faculty research and other academic enterprises. At the time it was one of the largest gifts in university history. Ross' philanthropy inspired his son, Dr. Dennis Ross, also an orthodontist, to make a gift of nearly \$1 million to be divided among the dental school, the College of Health and Human Performance, and athletics. While Dennis Ross is not an alumnus, he wanted to give because of the impact ECU has on students and the surrounding community.

"Dad was a giver and I'm following his lead," he said.

To learn more about how you can support the next 10 years of excellence at the School of Dental Medicine, contact Jon Jones, senior director of advancement, at jonesjona19@ecu.edu or 252-737-7063.

During students' fourth year, they complete three nine-week rotations at three different CSLCs, where they can experience different types of oral health care needs and immerse themselves in the culture, geography and social characteristics of each community. The rotations offer clinical experiences that account for 60% of students' final year.

In 2019, the school received the William J. Gies Award for Vision, Innovation and Achievement in the innovation category from the American Dental Education Association's ADEAGies Foundation, awarded for its breakthrough approach to providing practical experience for future dentists through rural service-learning centers across North Carolina. That's the year Dr. Hanan Elgendy, a clinical assistant professor, arrived.

"It feels great to see all the great things that are happening and seeing how the school has grown over the last 10 years and become a well-known school in dental education nationwide," she says.

Wilson said even with national recognition, the school's focus is still on the state.

"The school's mission is very unapologetically

dental school, and each CSLC community has contributed more than \$1 million in economic impact.

"We knew we were going to open the CSLCs, provide excellent educational opportunities, provide economic impact to these communities and offer dental and oral health care, but what we didn't realize was how well they would be accepted and the overall impact they would have as part of the university," Chadwick says. "Because of the CSLCs, the university has a footprint from Sylva to Elizabeth City."

"It feels great to see all the great things that are happening and seeing how the school has grown over the last 10 years and become a well-known school in dental education nationwide."

Dr. Hanan Elgendy
Clinical assistant professor, School of Dental Medicine

What's more, many of ECU's dental students hail from rural counties and communities, giving them a heightened understanding of the complexities surrounding rural health care. Dental students have come from 86 of North

“As I speak with current students, I see all the improvements that the program has obtained, like the ability of students to go on rotations to CSLCs on nine-week rotations, develop additional skills and work on their time management before they start their new professional journey,” Arriagada says. “It gives an opportunity for students to be involved within the community and to narrow the gap in the dental needs our state faces.”



“As I speak with current students, I see all the improvements that the program has obtained, like the ability of students to go on rotations to CSLCs on nine-week rotations, develop additional skills and work on their time management before they start their new professional journey.”

Dr. Jorge Arriagada
2015 graduate, School of Dental Medicine

The dental school focuses on educating students from underrepresented, rural and disadvantaged backgrounds. The Class of 2025 is made up of 39% underrepresented students. Nine of 52 students in the school's Class of 2023 participated in the Preparing Tomorrow's Dentists pipeline program, which provides an in-depth look at the school for students from underrepresented populations and rural communities. In 2020, Dr. Wanda Wright was named assistant dean for equity, diversity and inclusion, a position created to emphasize equity and diversity as core values.

representative of North Carolina,” she says. “I feel like we're definitely on the right track as health care professionals that are representative of our communities.”

That positive direction is thanks in part to the CSLC model and the strong technology network between the centers and the campus facility.

Dr. Ford Grant, faculty director at the school's CSLC in Ahoskie, joined ECU in 2012 and helped set the path for the other seven centers.

“Just in the last few years, we have seen the mission become reality with students from our area becoming dentists and joining us in the mission. ‘Growing our own’ is the term we use. The experience has been very rewarding.”

Grant says he hopes the future brings stronger relationships between dentists and other health care providers as well as bridging care gaps for homebound patients and those in care facilities. He already sees the school's mission making a difference.

“It is very encouraging to see more ECU School of Dental Medicine grads going into practice in underserved areas of the state and those who pursue residency and specialty training returning to the state to be part of the solution to access to dental care,” Grant says. “We will soon have graduates from almost every area of North Carolina. I see grade school, high school and college students all the time who tell us they want to be dentists. We let the students and residents know that they are role models for these kids.”

A future to smile about

Hardy, a Rocky Mount native, earned undergraduate degrees at ECU in biology



Fourth-year dental students Keyonah Lambert, left, and Victoria Hardy prepare to perform a root canal on Hardy's mother, Barbara (pictured with her daughter at right).

"Everything was bright and shiny," she says. "We have a lot of technology, a lot of good, new equipment and a beautiful campus. It was like sparkles in the eye. It was like it was saying, 'Everything is new, and it's ready for you.'"

Her dream came full circle at a time significant for her, the dental school and her family.

She had the opportunity to provide dental care to her mother, who supported her dream and made sacrifices for Hardy's education and goals. Her mother instilled good dental hygiene early on, something she did not have as a youngster.

"My mom was just very concerned about my teeth growing up because she didn't receive great dental care," Hardy says. "I was always self-conscious of her self-consciousness, and nobody should be ashamed of their smile."

Hardy says she has approached her dental education and clinical experience the same way she has provided care to her mother.

"We have patients with high anxiety, and when we're talking about treatment plans, they ask, 'What would you do if I was your mom?'" Hardy says. "I

"When she was in middle school, the students were asked to come up with a career choice. She chose dentistry," Barbara Hardy says. "She has stuck to her goals and persevered. She has worked so hard to get here. This was her dream career; she did not have a plan B because she would not give up on plan A."

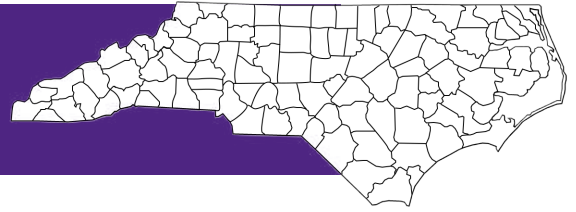
Ten years in, programming at the school focuses on reaching special populations in areas especially remote or unserved, including the four remaining counties in the state without a dentist – Camden, Hyde, Jones and Tyrrell.

"My hope is that budgetary issues will ease up, dental Medicaid will continue to be funded and that we go back to pre-COVID levels of educational experiences," Chadwick says. "We plan to expand our ability to provide preventive and restorative care services for children across the state, continue to attract outstanding candidates from North Carolina and address the future of oral health care needs."

Rogers says this anniversary is rewarding on countless levels and layers.

"There is just a deep personal connection to seeing the School of Dental Medicine succeed," he says. "To

EDGECOMBE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Roger Dail

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ragged Edge Solutions

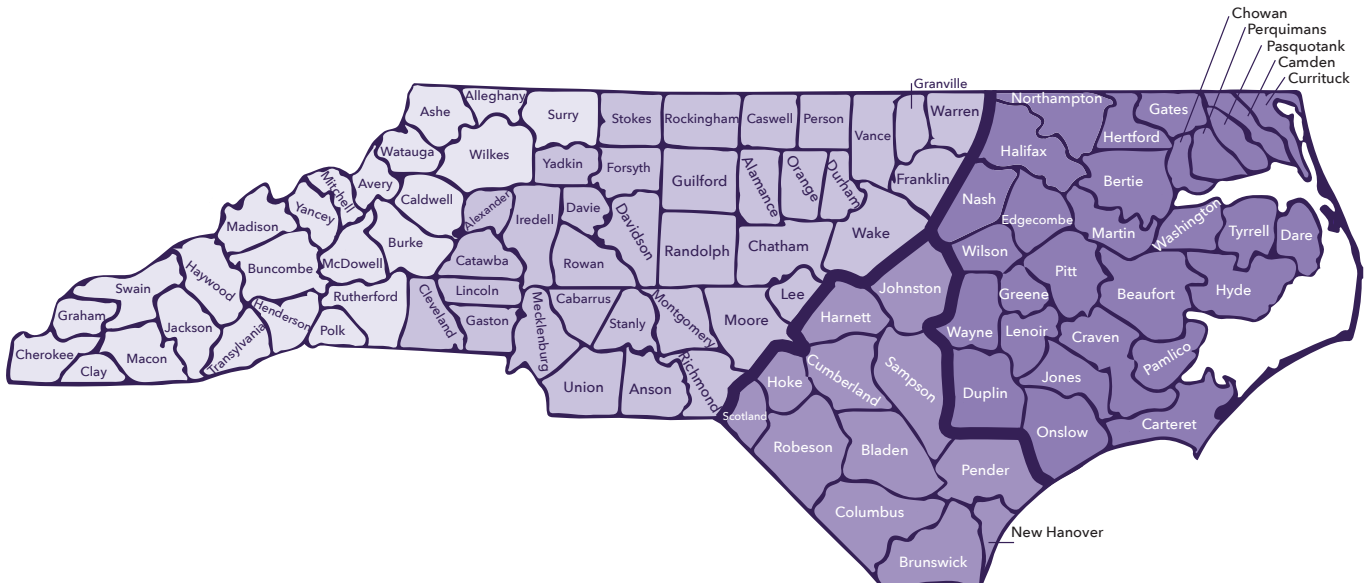
Roger Dail is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Ragged Edge Solutions, LLC. Dail served as a Gunners Mate in the U.S. Navy before he joined the U.S. Army Special Forces where he served as a Senior Weapons Sergeant (18B) and as a Senior Medical Sergeant (18D). He was assigned to 4th Battalion 3rd Special Forces Group and attended the first pilot program for the US Army Regional Support Medic. Dail participated in the establishment and growth of the US ARMY SOFACC Program, Regional Support Medic Program, and the Prolonged Field Care Working Group. He developed the Mountain Path Course, which was the first and largest standardized Prolonged Field Care training and sustainment program in the Department of Defense.



Rich Salve

Chief Operating Officer, Ragged Edge Solutions

MSG (ret.) Richard Salve, RN, BSN, VA-BC is the Chief Operating Officer at Ragged Edge Solutions. He retired from the Army in 2016 after 29 years of active, guard and reserve service, serving over 25 years in various roles within Special Operations. While in Reserve status, he spent almost 20 years as a firefighter/paramedic as well as earning a bachelor's degree in nursing. As a Registered Nurse he worked in the perioperative setting and after moving to North Carolina, spent a few years at Duke University Hospital on the Vascular Access Team. In his current role as COO, he manages current and future operations, planning and execution of course. His experiences in Special Operations as Medic and in Operations, civilian prehospital and his work in community and magnet hospital systems give him the breadth of knowledge that make him a well-versed member of the Ragged Edge Team.



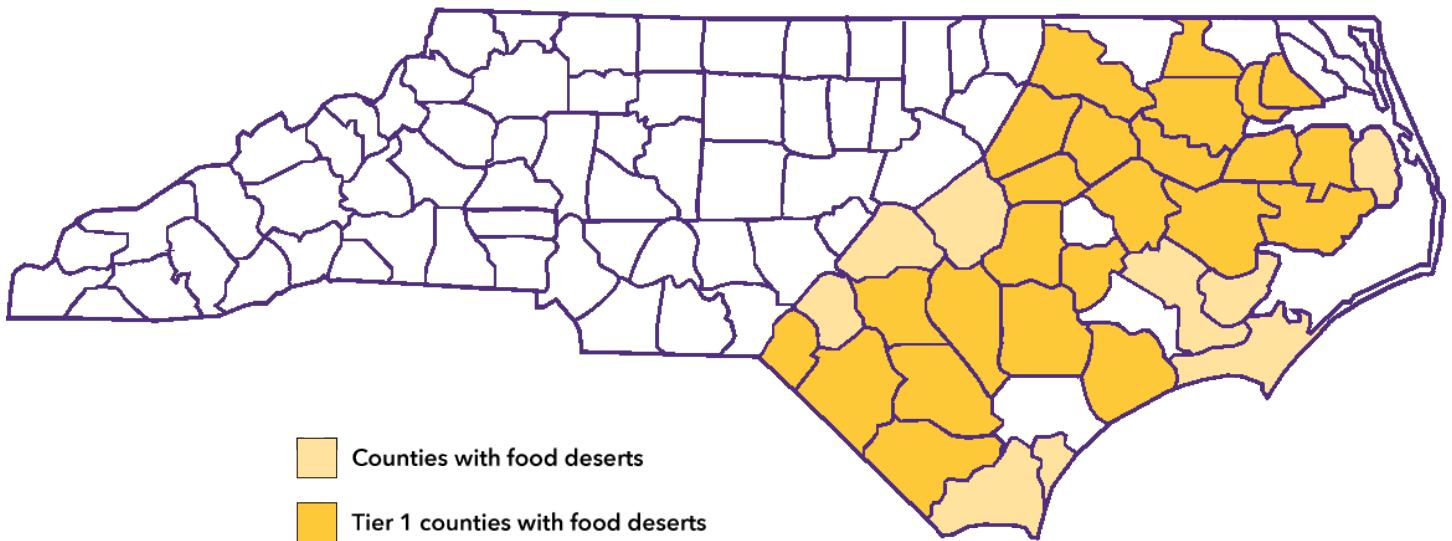
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

For more than 100 years ECU has been North Carolina's rural and coastal university. ECU's Rural Prosperity Initiative harnesses the intellectual strengths and research resources of ECU to improve the quality of life, health, education and employment for the people of our area. The goal of the initiative is to create prosperous communities in eastern North Carolina that not only benefit our region, but the state as a whole.

North Carolina's topography is composed of three main regions – the coastal plain, the piedmont and the mountains. The state's 41 counties east of Interstate 95, primarily made up of coastal plain counties, are referred to as eastern North Carolina.

These 41 counties make up the ENC-41 region. This region is more likely than the rest of North Carolina to be in poorer overall health, while facing higher death rates from cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. These regional differences are found throughout these counties regardless of race, income and education.

ECU's primary goal is to service 29 counties in this region, known as ENC-29. These counties – including Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson – are faced with greater economic, education and health disparities due to their local population and lack of resources.



FOOD DESERTS

Residents of eastern North Carolina are nearly 1.5 times more likely to experience food insecurity — the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods — as compared to the national average. Food insecurity in eastern North Carolina is highly correlated with the prevalence of food deserts. Food deserts are parts of the country devoid of fresh fruit, vegetables and other healthful whole foods. These deserts are usually found in impoverished areas due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers’ markets and healthy food providers. Approximately 38 percent of residents in the region struggle with ready access to healthy food, defined as living more than 0.5 miles (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from a supermarket. Of North Carolina’s 4.4 million acres of crops harvested in 2016, just 4.5 percent (198,600 acres) were fresh fruits and vegetables. Thus, while eastern North Carolina contains vast and fertile farmland, much of which could grow fruits and vegetables, these assets and subsequent health-related benefits are not fully realized.

Households found in the southern United States, including those in eastern North Carolina, have high rates of food insecurity. A lack of access to affordable, healthy food has been directly linked to chronic disease. Obesity is a major risk factor for diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer — three major health disparities prevalent across eastern North Carolina. Children living in rural food deserts have disproportionately higher rates of obesity and diabetes. In the region, 50 percent of the residents have a higher mortality rate from diabetes than the rest of the United States. As such, school and workplace performance are negatively impacted, creating a spiral of negative ripple effects throughout the region.

FRC EAST KINSTON OPERATION COMPLETES FIRST UH-1N HUEY HELICOPTER REPAIR



BY HEATHER WILBURN, FLEET READINESS CENTER
CAROLINA COASTAL ONLINE
SEPT. 29, 2021

Fleet Readiness Center East artisans recently completed work on the first UH-1N “Huey” helicopter to undergo service at the depot’s facility in Kinston’s North Carolina Global TransPark.

Logistical improvements brought about by the new location helped the team complete service on the aircraft more than 40 days ahead of the average turnaround times the H-1 line posted while based at FRC East’s primary facility at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, said Allen Broadway, H-1 branch head at the depot. The Kinston location, which opened in March, offers a dedicated space for the H-1 line while allowing the depot to reclaim hangar space at Cherry Point in support of the V-22 Osprey and H-53 heavy-lift helicopter programs.

The recently completed aircraft was in repair phase for 91 days, while the last six H-1 aircraft at FRC East averaged 130 to 140 days. Mr. Broadway said he could attribute the improvement to many factors but, above all, the success lies in having all of the H-1 line’s logistical elements present in one place and the working partnership between FRC East and the Global TransPark.



“Our workforce has always had the skill to be able to do this,” he said. “However, having a dedicated warehouse for material, having the production controllers full-kit each repair with all the parts needed, and not having non-essential items stored in the shadow of the artisans – all of this makes a difference.”

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SEPT. 29, 2021

https://www.carolinacoastonline.com/news_times/article_c70bd962-2083-11ec-8372-a3f49b6b677f.html

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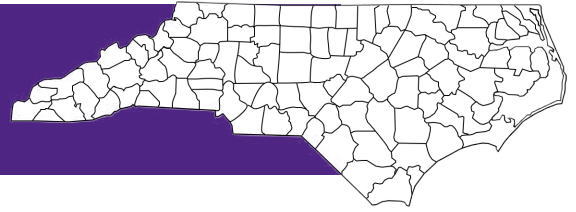


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LENOIR COUNTY SPEAKERS



Adam Short

Assistant County Manager and Planning Director, Lenoir County

Adam Short, Assistant County Manager and Planning Director for Lenoir County has been in his current role for seven months. Prior to working with Lenoir County, Short worked as the Planning Director for the City of Kinston for 11 years. In his current position, Short is charged with making steps towards implementing the land use related pieces of the Board of County Commissioners Strategic Plan. Presently, these include a new land use plan for the Harvey Parkway Area and rewriting the Lenoir County Zoning Code. He oversees parks, facilities, soil and water, works directly with the cooperative extension, and manages special projects for the County, with particular attention to ARPA funding.

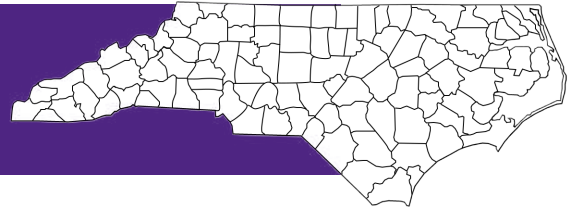


Tommy Sowers

President, flyExclusive

Tommy Sowers joined flyExclusive in July of 2021 following a successful career in entrepreneurship, academia, the military and public service. Sowers most recently served as the Southeast region lead for innovation for the U.S. Department of Defense and taught innovation and entrepreneurship at Duke University. Prior to this, he co-founded and was Chief Executive Officer of Durham and San Francisco-based GoldenKey and was a management consultant at McKinsey & Company. A U.S. Army Green Beret combat veteran, Sowers previously served as an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. At flyExclusive, he will work with the leadership team to develop and execute the company's strategic growth plan, which includes recently passing 500 employees and close to \$250 million in annual recurring revenue.

CARTERET COUNTY SPEAKERS



Ed Stack

Vice President of Administration and Development, Jarrett Bay Boatworks

Ed joined the Jarrett Bay team in June of 2014. He came to Jarrett Bay from the NC State Wolfpack Club, where he was Associate Executive Director. During his 16 years at the Wolfpack Club, he was responsible for various facets of generating private financial support for NC State University athletic scholarships and sports facilities. At Jarrett Bay, Ed applies the business fundamentals garnered from managing one of the largest philanthropic programs in the U.S. to bringing the highest level of product integrity and customer service excellence to the many operations here.

NEW BOAT CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES FROM COMPOSITES TO CARBON FIBER AND MORE



BY CAPT. KEN KREISLER
MARLIN MAG
OCT. 2, 2018

Boat construction and materials have come a long way since ancient mariners first hollowed out a fallen tree and floated downstream. Many of us remember the early builds from Hatteras — think back to the 1960 introduction of Knit Wits; at 41 feet in length, it is considered to be the first fiberglass production boat over 30 feet, and one that is still running to this day. But did you know that the use of composite materials dates back to antiquity?

In the Beginning

According to scholarly research, the earliest record of composite use is generally attributed to the ancient Mesopotamians around 3400 B.C. Using their own homegrown sticky stuff, they glued strips of wood placed at different angles to one another, and voilà: plywood was born.

The use of composites grew by leaps and bounds, and by around A.D. 1200, those rascally Mongols figured out that by using a combination of wood, bamboo, animal tendons and bones, all wrapped in silk and bonded together with pine resin, their bows were much more effective. So effective, in fact, that the weapon ruled their world in both hunting and warfare well into the 14th century, when firearms first appeared.

Fast-forward to the 1930s, when resin development took a giant step forward, paralleling the introduction of fiberglass by the Owens Corning company. Fiberglass-reinforced polymer was given a patent, and it would only be a matter of time until the automobile industry designed and produced a totally composite car body. After the introduction of the 1953 Corvette, the marine industry caught on.

In the next decade and onward — with the patent of carbon-fiber material for commercial use, technologically advanced resins and epoxies, new fabric weaves, better strength-to-weight ratios and the advent of Everett Pearson's Seemann Composites Resin Infusion Molding Process (SCRIMP) system of vacuum bagging — other innovations have brought us right up to today's high-tech, state-of-the-art construction methods, ones that have given us some of the most beautifully built and functional fishing machines known worldwide.

To get a handle on just how all this has affected high-level tournament-ready sport-fishing boats from the custom sector, I went right to the source with several well-known builders to get their input.

A Flair for Innovation

“We put a lot of engineering into our boats, and each one, from a 60-footer to a 90-footer, gets the same attention,” says Gary Davis, superintendent of new construction at the sprawling Jarrett Bay Boatworks facility

in Beaufort, North Carolina. “You can’t just add more horsepower to make the boat go faster. The only way to skin that cat is to look for ways to improve the hydrodynamics and eliminate weight. Those are the challenges that new technology addresses.”

The Jarrett Bay approach looks at the whole build to ensure all of the critical structural parts, as well as all of the boat’s systems, work in harmony in order to exceed expectations. “For example, with our 90-footer, the owner wanted the boat to be not just fast but as quiet as possible,” Davis says.

With the research done, they determined that while a full carbon-fiber package would yield the best speed, with the level of sound-dampening material needed to achieve the desired decibel levels, the weight savings would be eliminated, and the boat would actually be heavier. “We came up with a hybrid method for the hull skin, sides and transom by building them out of the relatively same lightweight material we have been using over the past 15 years — a cold-molded product made out of plywood and epoxy,” Davis notes. “The wood acts as a fairly good sound insulator too.”



After that, the similarities go away. For example, all the stringers, bulkheads, decks and everything from there on are foam-cored, with carbon-fiber-infused skins. “In the case of all the topside stuff, we’ve taken the E-glass out and replaced it with carbon fiber,” Davis says. “On the hull itself, we do have the E-glass laminate on the hull, inside and out, but after that, and with a few exceptions, everything else is a carbon-infused lamination.”

As far as mounting those new high-horsepower engines, one of the headaches with carbon fiber is the absolute need to isolate it from metals to prevent galvanic corrosion. The main stringers where the engines sit have a higher-density foam core and an overlay of carbon fiber. Over that is a welded aluminum cap that is properly sized to accept the motor mounts. To isolate it all, a layer of E-glass was applied before the paint. And to make sure the through-bolts would not come in contact with the carbon fiber, a compression sleeve was inserted.

“Everything you see mounted on that boat, and everywhere that particular material is used across the board, we use a compression or grip sleeve to make sure there is no chance of any

contact with a screw, bolt or metal component to set up galvanic corrosion,” Davis says. “This does complicate the build, but we made it happen.”

With the blessings of technology and new materials come a host of ills that must be addressed. “With the new processes, we are always looking for weight-saving opportunities, and in the final analysis, it all adds up. To make it happen, everybody involved has to be in the same mindset,” he adds.

The Bayliss View

“We are big believers in the triple-ply Okoume hull, and I think, universally, everyone can agree that nothing compares to the sound-deadening capability, the ride and the performance of this hull,” says John Bayliss, whose boatbuilding facility in Wanchese, North Carolina, bears his name.

While the hulls at Bayliss Boatworks are glass inside and out, and use epoxy resin throughout the build, the construction process will vary with the building materials used. During wood construction, for example, a specific West System epoxy will be applied. “When we get to the cabin, superstructure, flybridge and console, we use Core-Cell foam that is glassed on both sides,” Bayliss notes. “We still use Philippine mahogany for the framework in the overhead of the cabin, which provides room for air ducts, wiring bundles, lighting and so on.”

Bayliss and I discussed the all-important notion of being weight-conscious throughout his builds. While that is essential in today’s horizon-chasing fishing boats, his personal stamp on every boat that leaves the facility also comes with a pedigree that pays special attention to the ride. “I believe there is such thing as getting too light and high-tech, where a solid glass or core boat tends to resonate the sound more. That’s why we stick with cold-molding and the wood hull,” he says.

To further weight savings, Bayliss has replaced his decking material with a very durable 3M honeycomb core, and all bulkheads are a combination of marine plywood and Core-Cell, glassed on both sides. “Our boats are really quiet, ride very well and fish like they are expected to,” he says. “As far as all these new materials are concerned, and while we’ve adopted some of them into our builds and construction process, like CNC [computer numerical control], in-house design and the use of carbon fiber in certain areas for stiffening, we like to think that we have the kind of consistency to keep doing things the way we’ve always done them.”

Spencer’s Take on Tech

“We’ve been on the forefront of new technology for some 18 years now, with resin infusion, composite construction, Core-Cell, Divinycell and incorporating carbon fiber,” says Paul Spencer, of the Wanchese, North Carolina-based Spencer Yachts. “And we’re always looking for new ways to make things lighter and stronger on our boats.”

The formula of horsepower plus weight equals speed and performance is the well-accepted math for serious sport-fishing boats, and while Spencer and the other builders seek to push the limits of their builds, they all must keep something very important in mind: The boat must still withstand the rigors it will be put through at sea.

To that end, when Spencer first began with composite construction, the company engaged structural engineers to supply most of the data. In addition, with the all-important resin companies, the builder also consulted on which were the best formulas to use for resin infusion, given the higher temperatures. “We use post-curing for our builds, and will actually cook the whole hull, cabin and bridge in an autoclave oven in order to gain the full benefit of the product,” Spencer says. “When we cure at 200 to 250 degrees, the result is a harder, more stable outcome, without any of the post-cure issues like print-through. This way, we are able to take full advantage of these high-tech resins.”

When it comes to carbon fiber, Spencer notes a lot of good uses for the material. “In our bulkheads, for example, it’s great because it won’t be abused there,” he says. And while carbon fiber does have its drawbacks — the aforementioned need for isolation, for example — there are many other uses where strength and weight savings are needed. “We don’t do the hull, but with the bulkheads and decks where you would need, let’s say, 20 ounces of E-glass, it only takes 10 ounces of carbon fiber and half the amount of resin to saturate it,” he points out. “The weight savings can be significant.”

Spencer’s main focus is its continued use of composites in a jig-built boat —incorporating any new technologies that can strengthen its builds and make them lighter — after strenuous research and testing, of course. For this builder, it’s not any one thing but a series of innovations that result in the boats you see coming from their facility.

Willis Owns His Turf

Building with high-tech materials is where Mark Willis’ Stuart, Florida-based Willis Marine finds its comfort zone. “From the initial conversation with the customer, we know right from the start whether it’s going to be

a high-tech build or something a bit more mainstream,” he says. “And it doesn’t matter whether it’s one of our custom flats boats or a complicated build like the 77-foot Uno Mas, we approach everything in the same way.”

In order to get things going, Willis and his team start with computer studies and a full CFD (computational fluid dynamics) analysis, which shows the characteristics of an object as it interacts with water. Along with weight studies, this allows Willis to develop an idea on paper of what the best build platform is, way before any construction begins.

“While the design process remains the same, using materials like carbon fiber will affect the weight studies since they are significantly lighter than the traditional glass composite or wood structure,” Willis says. “When we go this way, tracking the weights during every phase of the build becomes an integral part of the plan.”

With a somewhat visionary approach, Willis is also taking a new slant when addressing the running gear on his boats. And while the technology has been around for some time, having roots in the military, the weight-adapted methodology considers the struts, shaft, props and rudders as one system — what Willis calls an engineered drivetrain. “They are analyzed through CFD to be as slippery as possible, given the weight of the water passing through and by them,” he says. “It’s this kind of stuff that is bringing the marine industry well into the 21st century.”

Willis and I discussed the approach he used for Uno Mas, working with an owner who came to them with a cutting-edge idea that would push the envelope right from the start. “We really worked on the styling for many months, using models and 3D computer programs, until everyone was happy with how it was going to look,” he says.

Willis is comfortable with his niche in the market and prefers to use high-tech materials in his builds. “For me, anybody who wants Willis Marine to build them a boat wants something that sets them apart from the others,” he says. “I’m always looking for that particular challenge.”

ACY and the Need for Speed

Dominick LaCombe likes to go fast, from his motorcycles and cars to the boats that slip down the ways at his



American Custom Yachts facility in Stuart. “It’s all about the weight,” he points out. “Lighter means faster. We were building light, strong boats when the horsepower wasn’t there. When the engine horsepower started to get higher, our light, strong builds were already there performance-wise,” he says.

Back in the 1980s, LaCombe began using carbon fiber to reinforce the deck beams, as well as replacing the fiberglass fabric with Kevlar for added strength and reduced weight. “The Kevlar was really good for collision bulkheads,” he notes.

LaCombe’s take on working with carbon fiber echoes everyone else’s concern about the material: “Think about it as being a sheet of steel,” he says. “If you put a screw in it, you’re going to have to isolate those two metals.” And with that in mind, ACY makes absolutely sure that whenever carbon fiber is used, special attention is given to protection and isolation.

Being a custom builder, ACY uses limited production tooling molds for the house and flybridge; the former has Core-Cell foam beams in the overhead for the bridge deck. This is one of the places where they use vacuum-infused carbon fiber along with Pro-Set epoxies to prevent any print-through. “We own the whole infusion pump system and are able to make sure the resin-to-weight ratios are kept right where they belong,” he points out.

With technology delivering new resin chemistry, ACY has taken advantage of the advances by integrating the advanced formulas into its builds. Everything in the design and building process that technology has provided to make things a little bit lighter and more user-friendly, LaCombe says, has been incorporated into the boats that bear the ACY name.

Looking Ahead

As technology continues to advance, it will be interesting to see what comes down the line and how that will affect our industry and, in particular, the custom builders. There are radical designs already showing up, and new ideas about propulsion options and building materials that will see the next generation of boaters looking back at what came before, just as we do with the first fiberglass boats. Time will tell.





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Turn up the heat with an HVAC career! This curriculum teaches students about the operations, maintenance, and troubleshooting of residential and commercial heating and air-conditioning systems. The program consists of HVAC Levels 1-3. Each level introduces progressively more complex job components.

- \$24,130 (entry) | \$33,510 (median) | \$50,000 (high)
- Employment outlook in this industry is estimated to rise 16% by 2026
- Eligible for NCCER certification

PLUMBING

Take the plunge with a plumbing career! This curriculum teaches students residential and commercial plumbing operations and introduces the Building Plumbing Code, as well as how to install wastewater vents, water and sewage systems, plumbing fixtures, and more. The program consists of Plumbing Levels 1-3. Each level introduces progressively more complex job components.

- \$32,550 (entry) | \$43,560 (median) | \$56,180 (high)
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- \$31,990 (entry) | \$48,500 (median) | \$74,090 (high)
- Employment outlook in this industry is estimated to rise 3% by 2029

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Build a better tomorrow with training at the Volt Center. Whether you are looking to build a stronger community or build your career opportunities, the Volt Center offers educational programs specializing in construction and manufacturing trades that are in high demand across Eastern North Carolina. Many training programs include hands-on experience, certifications, and are available at no cost!

Classes are offered at the Volt Center through Craven Community College's Workforce Development program. Current learning opportunities include:

Carpentry • Electrical • HVAC • Masonry • Plumbing •
Small Engine Repair • Forklift Operation • Diesel Tech •
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Spark a new interest in construction trades with the Arc Welding program! This training opportunity includes hands-on learning and experience with welding safety, oxyfuel cutting, plasma arc cutting, air-carbon arc cutting, fillet welds, SMAW-groove welds, and more.

- \$28,010 (entry) | \$39,610 (median) | \$58,260 (high)
- Employment outlook in this industry is estimated to rise 10% by 2026
- Eligible for NCCER certification

ELECTRICAL

Amp up your job marketability with our Electrical program! This curriculum teaches students the intricacies of electrical wiring operations and introduction to National Electric Code, as well as how to install electrical systems in structures and various mechanisms. The program consists of Electrical Levels 1-3. Each level introduces progressively more complex job components.

- \$33,220 (entry) | \$44,260 (median) | \$58,060 (high)
- Employment outlook in this industry is estimated to rise 10% by 2026
- Eligible for NCCER certification



MASONRY

Cement a successful career with our Masonry program! The program consists of Masonry Levels 1-2. You will receive intensive, hands-on training that will teach you to identify tools and equipment, apply calculations for construction drawings, and explain the specifications, standards, and codes, as well as how to set up, lay out, bond, cut, and clean blocks and bricks.

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- Eligible for NCCER certification

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Organizations supporting Volt Center and trades scholarships include:

- Home Builders Association of Craven and Pamlico Counties
- National Housing Endowment
- Craven Community College Foundation
- Golden Leaf Scholarships
- Workforce Development Opportunity Scholarship
- Veteran Scholarship

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Six programs at the Volt Center are accredited by the National Center for Construction and Education Research (NCCER): HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Masonry, Carpentry, and Welding. This accreditation assures that students receive quality training based on uniform standards and criteria.

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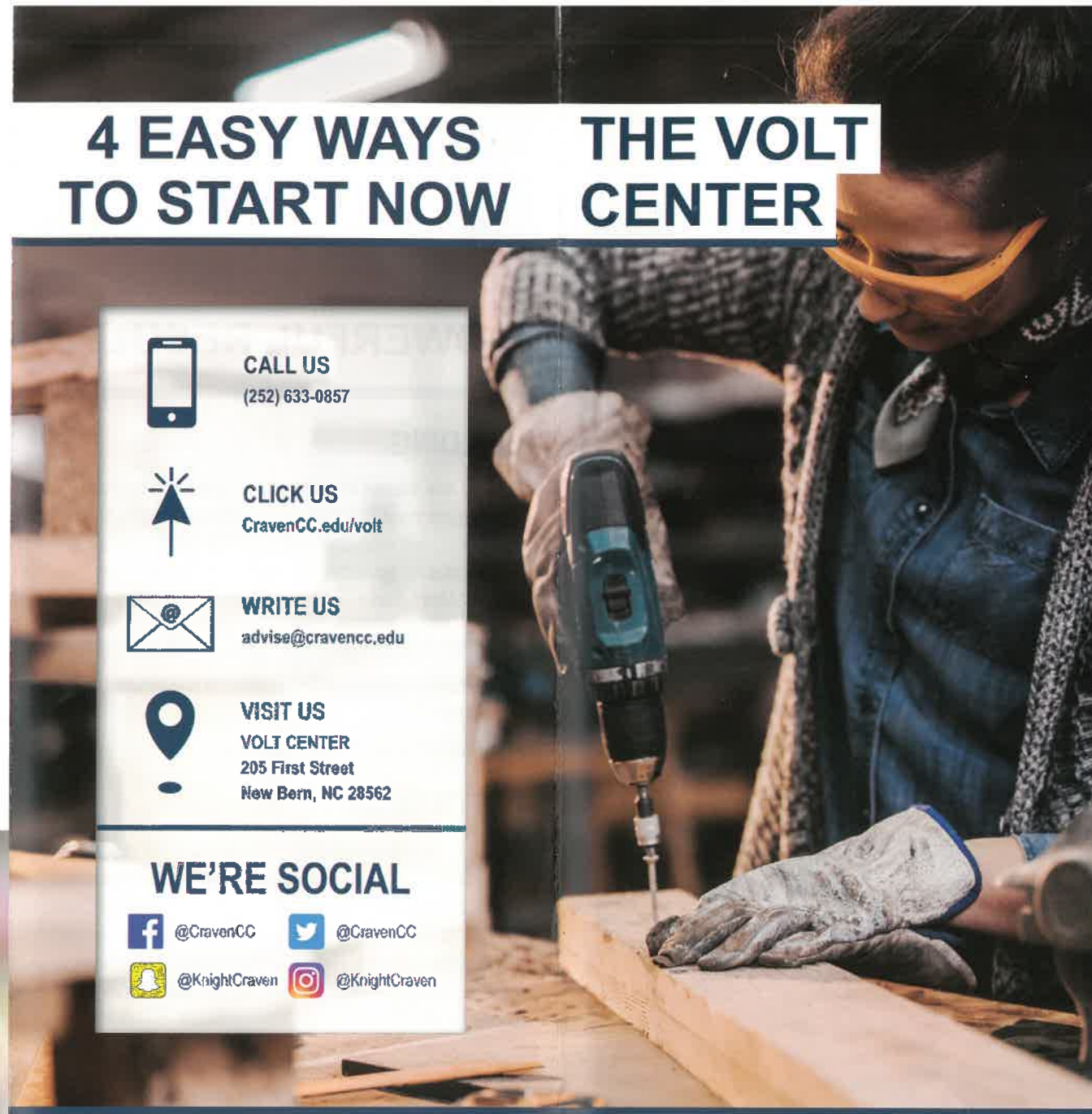
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- \$31,990 (entry) | \$48,500 (median) | \$74,090 (high)
- Employment outlook in this industry is estimated to rise 3% by 2029

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Jump-start your career with small engine repair training! Participants in this curriculum learn how to assess and perform routine maintenance on small engine/power equipment, from lubricating parts and replacing spark plugs to testing and inspecting for engine malfunctions. The class will also include general combustion theory and principles.

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- Employment outlook in this industry is estimated to rise 12% by 2026

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- \$24,630 (entry) | \$32,700 (median) | \$43,980 (high)
- Employment outlook in this industry is estimated to rise 13% by 2026
- Eligible for NCCER certification

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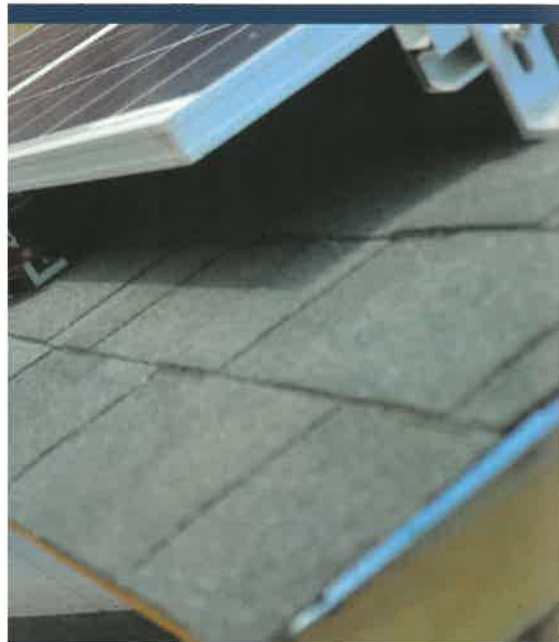
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All job outlook statistics are estimates gathered from the U.S. Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Program.

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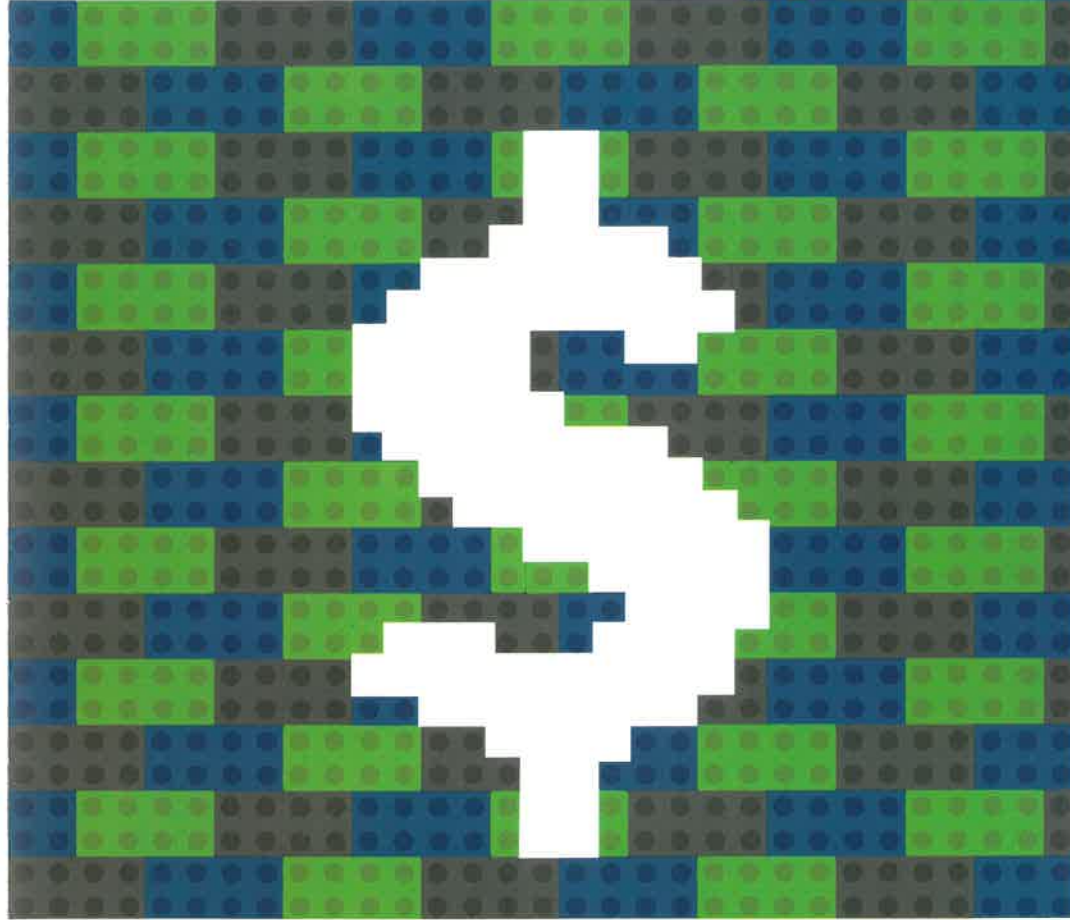


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HVAC • Manufacturing Pathways • Plumbing •
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The Small Business Center at Craven CC offers entrepreneurial education through informative workshops and training by qualified professionals.

- **Small Business Workshops** – prepare aspiring entrepreneurs for business ownership and help current business owners sharpen their focus
- **Small Business Roundtable** – informal discussion group of local small business owners that serves as an information and support resource
- **Small Business Resource Center** – free computer and Internet access and a variety of small business resources, including software, multimedia tools, and government resources

College and Career Readiness/Family Literacy Program



Automotive

& Air Conditioning



Forklift Operation



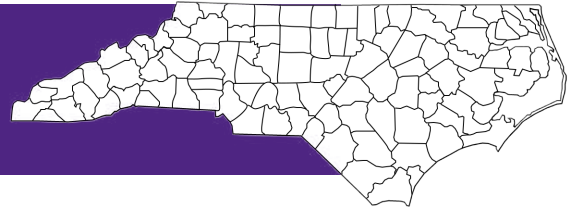
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WAYNE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Howell Farming Company

Frank Howell, Garrett Howell, Melissa Beasley, Danny Beasley

Located in beautiful Goldsboro, North Carolina, Howell Farming Company takes pride in feeding families around the globe top quality sweet potatoes and watermelons. At the helm of the operation resides Frank Howell. As a third generation farmer, Frank understands the guiding principles of hard work, dedication, and love of the land. Frank Howell is owner and operator of Howell Farming Company. His son, Garrett Howell, works as the farm manager, while his daughter, Melissa Beasley, works as Quality Control Manager and her husband, Danny Beasley Jr., is the Operations and Sales Manager. This farm continues to pass on the tradition of farming from generation to generation.



Nate Myers

STEM Teacher and Instructional Technology Facilitator, Rocky Mount Preparatory School

Nate Myers is a STEM teacher and Instructional Technology Facilitator at Rocky Mt. Prep School in Rocky Mt., NC. He runs a startup called the M Project focused on providing design thinking opportunities and innovation lab spaces for students to problem solve through exposure to tech-based opportunities. Originally from South Carolina, he attended NC State University as a mechanical engineering major and got his degree in Science, Technology, and Society with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship. Myers has been working with youth in some capacity for the past ten years, running a music production program for the boys and girls club teen center in Raleigh, teaching with Duke TIP, and teaching courses such as digital media and computer science at various schools in both Raleigh and Durham. Myers served as the facilitator for the 2021 week-long STEM Camp at Wayne County Public Library and will serve in the same capacity again in 2022.

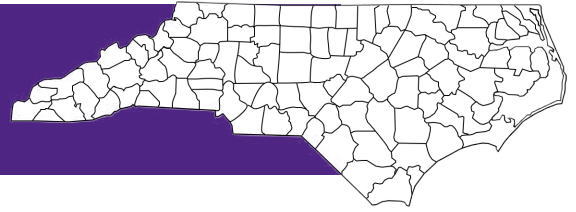


Donna Phillips

Director, Wayne County Public Library

Donna Phillips has over 25 years of experience working in public libraries and recently served as President of the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association. She was named director of the Wayne County Public Library system in 2011, after having previously served in the roles of assistant director and head of children's services. Phillips's civic involvement includes serving as a board member for United Way of Wayne County, the NC Community Foundation, and the Partnership for Children. She is a member and past president of the Goldsboro Rotary Club. Prior to her work in the public library, Phillips worked in the field of early childhood education and will forever be grateful for the lessons she learned about the value of service to others while earning her undergraduate degree at East Carolina University.

WAYNE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Maegen Wilson

Assistant Director, Wayne County Public Library

Maegen Wilson serves as the assistant director for the Wayne County Public Library and previously served as the assistant director for Wilson County Public Library's system. With over 15 years of experience in libraries, Wilson has served in a variety of roles with an emphasis on community partnerships and adult education. She holds her bachelor's in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her master's in library science from East Carolina University, and is a graduate of the North Carolina Library Association Leadership Institute. She currently serves as the project manager for the library's YouTech Learning Lab a partnership with Wayne Community College and the Dudley Digital Inclusion Project in partnership with Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency. Her civic involvement includes past president of Goldsboro Rotary Club, co-chair of the Rotary District 7720 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, loaned executive for the United Way of Wayne County, and committee member for the Partnership for Children of Wayne County.