

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



Funded by the Office of Innovation and Engagement
and the Office of Research

Welcome to the Purple and Gold Bus Tour 2025!



This binder provides an overview of the next two days and contains valuable information about the 2025 bus tour. Use it to connect with your fellow participants and familiarize yourself with the sites and leaders at each stop. Throughout, you'll find references to ECU's mission and vision statements, highlighting goals to explore at each location. We hope this will help guide you to think more strategically and innovatively about collaboration, both within the university and with external partners. For your reference, we've included a copy of ECU's Strategic Plan Refresh on the following page.

Tour Details

- Addresses and contacts are provided for each stop on the Purple and Gold Bus Tour, including details on where we will be staying.
- The timeline tells you where we will be going and when we expect to depart and arrive at each location. **Please be mindful of the times** as we need to stay on schedule.

Participant Information

- Bios and pictures for each participant on the bus tour
- Bios and pictures for all Office of Research and Office of Innovation and Engagement staff who are on the bus tour

Office Initiatives

- Information on areas and programs within the Office of Research and Office of Innovation and Engagement
- Definitions for community engagement through learning, scholarship, and public service

Information on Our Stops

- Demographic information for each county
- Highlights of community engaged successes by each county
- Bios and pictures of each speaker we will hear from
- Brief overview of each town in which we are visiting
- Site specific resource pages
- Pages for notes

Information on all 29 Eastern NC Counties

- Demographic pages are included for all other 29 eastern NC counties.

A digital copy of this binder will also be uploaded to REDE.ECU.EDU/BUSTOUR. Past participants have used this binder as a reference when writing grants, to track down demographic data for projects, and to reach out to those they networked with during their time on the bus tour.

Should you have any questions about this notebook or the tour, please reach out to any of the Innovation and Engagement staff on the bus, or email us at communityengagement@ecu.edu.

Future focused. Innovation driven.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023–2028

East Carolina University® remains steadfast in our commitment to be a national model for student success, public service and regional transformation. Through education, research, health care, community engagement, cultural enrichment and more, ECU enhances the quality of life for our students, our state and our world.

Future focused. Innovation driven. is ECU's strategic plan for 2023–2028. A refresh of the university's 2017–2022 strategic plan, it highlights the intersection of ECU's mission, vision and values as we set priorities for advancing the university during the next five years.

MISSION PRIORITIES

Mission Priority 1: Student Success

We offer transformative experiences for all students during their time at ECU and beyond.

- **Objective M1.1:** Strengthen graduation and retention strategies while closing equity gaps to advance opportunity for all.
- **Objective M1.2:** Expand access to and participation in transformative experiences and experiential learning.
- **Objective M1.3:** Align university programs to meet the demands of a dynamic, innovative economy and an evolving workforce.

Mission Priority 2: Public Service

We focus our efforts with the community in mind and to achieve goals that enable us to be more engaged citizens.

- **Objective M2.1:** Increase public engagement with and access to educational and cultural offerings.
- **Objective M2.2:** Grow external sponsorship to support community engagement activities

Mission Priority 3: Regional Transformation

We evaluate our success by the development of our region, informed by local and global perspectives.

- **Objective M3.1:** Strengthen the regional workforce.
- **Objective M3.2:** Expand and enrich external partnerships.
- **Objective M3.3:** Advance regional economic prosperity and sustainability.

Future focused. Innovation driven.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023–2028

VISION PRIORITIES

Vision Priority 1: Social and Economic Mobility

We will be an engine of access and advancement for all learners through innovative teaching, research and creative activities.

- **Objective V1.1:** Increase enrollment and completion rates of underserved populations through a lens of affordability and accessibility.
- **Objective V1.2:** Bolster online course and program offerings.
- **Objective V1.3:** Expand curricular and noncurricular workforce development programs aimed at workforce upskilling and reskilling.

Vision Priority 2: Workforce Success

We cultivate a culture of care, belonging and opportunity for our faculty, staff and learners and all stakeholders.

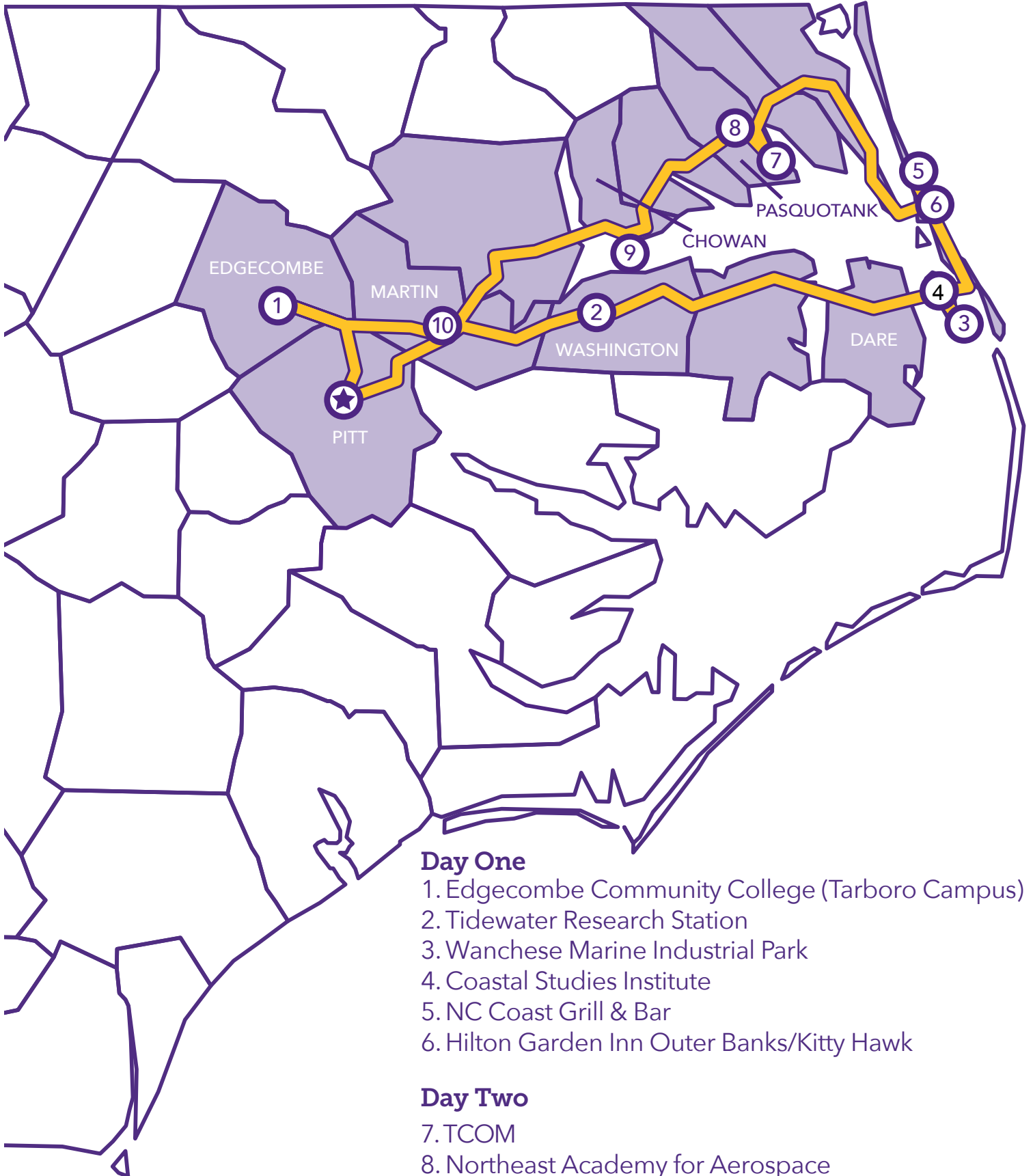
- **Objective V2.1:** Increase support and utilization of faculty and staff well-being resources.
- **Objective V2.2:** Commit to sustaining an inclusive environment that welcomes a broad representation of persons and perspectives.
- **Objective V2.3:** Prepare university employees with the knowledge and competencies required for successful career journeys.

Vision Priority 3: Rural Health and Well-Being

We will improve health access, sustainability and outcomes for rural communities.

- **Objective V3.1:** Strengthen educational opportunities and academic programs to meet the needs of a rural population.
- **Objective V3.2:** Expand access to health care and wellness options.
- **Objective V3.3:** Collaborate with community and university partners to foster comprehensive well-being.

2025 PURPLE AND GOLD BUS TOUR ROUTE



Day One

1. Edgecombe Community College (Tarboro Campus)
2. Tidewater Research Station
3. Wanchese Marine Industrial Park
4. Coastal Studies Institute
5. NC Coast Grill & Bar
6. Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk

Day Two

7. TCOM
8. Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies
9. Daedalus Yachts
10. Agape Health Services

BUS TOUR TIMELINE
DAY 1 – MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

SITE	TIME	PRESENTER	ACTIVITY & OUTCOMES	STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY AREAS
DEPART ECU	7:30 AM	Sharon Paynter Chief Innovation and Engagement Officer	ACTIVITY Welcome remarks GOAL Overview of tour	
EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - TARBORO CAMPUS Tarboro, Edgecombe County	40-Minute Drive ARRIVE 8:10 AM DEPART 9:40 AM	Eric Evans County Manager, Edgecombe County Greg McLeod President, Edgecombe Community College	ACTIVITY Tour and panel discussion GOAL Understanding the intersection between local government, community colleges, and industry partners to drive workforce success	Student Success Align university programs to meet the demands of a dynamic, innovative economy and an evolving workforce Social and Economic Mobility Expand curricular and noncurricular workforce development programs aimed at workforce upskilling and reskilling
EDGECOMBE, MARTIN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES Windshield Tour	60-Minute Drive 9:40-10:40 AM		ACTIVITY Network on bus	

<p>TIDEWATER RESEARCH STATION Plymouth, Washington County</p>	<p>ARRIVE 10:40 AM</p> <p>DEPART 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Mark Clough Research Scholar, Potato Breeding and Genetics Program, Tidewater Research Station</p> <p>Rusty Collins Superintendent, Tidewater Research Station</p> <p>Teresa Lambert Director of Research Stations, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</p> <p>Ekrem Ozlu Assistant Professor, Soil Management Extensions Specialist, Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center</p> <p>Jalyn Ward Washington County Agricultural Agent</p>	<p>ACTIVITY Tour and Lunch</p> <p>GOAL Experience the agricultural assets, opportunities, and challenges through the lens of research active partnerships</p>	<p>Public Service Increase public engagement with and access to educational and cultural offerings</p> <p>Regional Transformation Expand and enrich external partnerships</p>
<p>WASHINGTON, TYRELL AND DARE COUNTIES Windshield Tour</p>	<p>70-Minute Drive 1:00-2:10 PM</p>		<p>ACTIVITY Network on bus</p>	
<p>WANCHESE MARINE INDUSTRIAL PARK Wanchese, Dare County</p>	<p>ARRIVE 2:10 PM</p> <p>DEPART 2:45 PM</p>	<p>Bob Peele Director, Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park</p>	<p>ACTIVITY Windshield Tour of Industrial Park</p> <p>GOAL Explore historical, cultural, and</p>	<p>Public Service Increase public engagement with and access to educational and cultural offerings</p>

			economic significance of marine and seafood industries for the Outer Banks and NC	Regional Transformation Advance regional economic prosperity and sustainability
DARE COUNTY Windshield Tour	10-Minute Drive 2:45-2:55 PM		ACTIVITY Network on bus	
COASTAL STUDIES INSITUTE Wanchese, Dare County	ARRIVE 2:55 PM DEPART 4:45 PM	Michael Basnight Commissioner, Town of Manteo Reide Corbett Dean, Integrated Coastal Programs John McCord Associate Director for Education, Outreach & Communication, Coastal Studies Institute Meaghan Johnson Chief of Resource Management and Science, Outer Banks Group Parks Jeff Schwartzberg Community Engagement Manager, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau	ACTIVITY Tour GOAL Understanding of research partnerships, ongoing research	Public Service Increase public engagement with and access to educational and cultural offerings Regional Transformation Expand and enrich external partnerships
DARE COUNTY Windshield Tour	55-Minute Drive 4:45-5:40 PM		ACTIVITY Network on bus	

**NC COAST GRILL
AND BAR**

Duck,
Dare County

**ARRIVE
5:40 PM**

**DEPART
8:00 PM**

Christina Bowen
Chief Well-Being
Officer, ECU
Health and
Medical Director,
Outer Banks
Health Center for
Healthy Living

Sheila Davies
Director,
Dare County
Department of
Health and Human
Service,
Public Health
Director

Amy Montgomery
Senior
Administrator of
Operations,
Outer Banks
Health

Chris Sawin
Community
Foundation
President, Outer
Banks Community
Foundation

**Charles "Trey"
Shelton**
Chair of Cancer
Committee,
Radiation
Oncologist,
Outer Banks
Health

Ronnie Sloan
President, Outer
Banks Health

Wes Stepp
Executive Chef
and Owner, NC
Coast Grill and
Bar

ACTIVITY

Dinner and panel

GOAL

Understanding of
BlueZone and ECU
Health's role in the
region

**Regional
Transformation**

Expand and enrich
external
partnerships

**Rural Health and
Well-Being**

Expand access to
health care and
wellness options;
Collaborate with
community and
university partners
to foster
comprehensive
well-being

DARE COUNTY Windshield Tour	25-Minute Drive 8:00-8:25 PM			
HILTON GARDEN INN Kitty Hawk, Dare County	ARRIVE 8:25 PM		ACTIVITY Overnight Stay	

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

HILTON GARDEN INN & SUITES Kitty Hawk, Dare County	6:30-7:30 AM		ACTIVITY Breakfast	
DARE AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES Windshield Tour	70-Minute Drive 7:30-8:40 AM		ACTIVITY Network on bus	
TCOM Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County	ARRIVE 8:40 AM DEPART 10:15 AM	Frank Feher Master Planning Manager, TCOM Sean Lavin Program Manager, TCOM Troy Tyler Production Engineer, TCOM	ACTIVITY Tour GOAL Understanding of aerostat surveillance systems as well as the need and impact regionally and globally	Regional Transformation Expand and enrich external partnerships
PASQUOTANK COUNTY Windshield Tour	15-Minute Drive 10:15-10:30 AM		ACTIVITY Network on bus	
NORTHEAST ACADEMY FOR AEROSPACE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County	ARRIVE 10:30 AM DEPART 1:00 PM	Lindsey Cahoon Professional Coach and Beginning Teacher Coordinator, NEAAAT	ACTIVITY Tour and lunch GOAL Exploration of innovative educational environments and	Regional Transformation Strengthen the regional workforce Workforce Success Sustaining an environment that

		<p>Andrew Harris Chief Executive Officer, NEAAAT</p> <p>Kimberly Mawhiney Director of STEM and Grants, NEAAAT</p> <p>Caren Roberts Williams Director of Curriculum and Systems, NEAAAT</p>	<p>curricula to ignite student achievement</p>	<p>welcomes a broad representation of persons and perspectives</p>
<p>PASQUOTANK AND CHOWAN COUNTIES Windshield Tour</p>	<p>15-Minute Drive 1:00-1:15 PM</p>		<p>ACTIVITY Network on bus</p>	
<p>DAEDALUS YACHTS Edenton, Chowan County</p>	<p>ARRIVE 1:15 PM</p> <p>DEPART 2:45 PM</p>	<p>Darryl Adachi Business Manager, Daedalus Yachts</p> <p>Jonas Hertwig Vice President and Director of Design, Daedalus Yachts</p> <p>Michael Reardon Co-Founder, Daedalus Yachts</p>	<p>ACTIVITY Tour</p> <p>GOAL Exploration of industry 4.0 environment using cutting-edge technologies, applications, and products</p>	<p>Workforce Success Strengthen the regional workforce</p> <p>Regional Transformation Expand and enrich external partnerships</p> <p>Student Success Align university programs to meet the demands of a dynamic, innovative economy and an evolving workforce</p>
<p>CHOWAN AND MARTIN COUNTIES Windshield Tour</p>	<p>50-Minute Drive 2:45-3:35 PM</p>		<p>ACTIVITY: Network on bus</p>	

<p>AGAPE HEALTH Williamston, Martin County</p>	<p>ARRIVE 3:35 PM</p> <p>DEPART 4:35 PM</p>	<p>Jerika Bope Public Health Coordinator, Agape Health Services</p> <p>Mariah Latham Practice Manager, Agape Health Services</p> <p>Carol "ReAnne" Mayo Public Relations and Marketing Manager, Agape Health Services</p> <p>Dimanique Worsley Practice Administrator, Agape Health Services</p>	<p>ACTIVITY Tour</p> <p>GOAL Understanding of health resources available to rural communities in eastern NC, funding of programs, and how they benefit the communities served</p>	<p>Student Success Align university programs to meet the demands of a dynamic, innovative economy and an evolving workforce</p> <p>Rural Health and Well-Being Collaborate with community and university partners to foster comprehensive well-being</p>
---	---	--	---	--

RETURN TO GREENVILLE 40-MINUTE DRIVE

ADDRESSES & CONTACTS

TOUR STOPS

EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - TARBORO CAMPUS

2009 W Wilson St
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-823-5166

Edgecombe Community College (ECC), founded in 1967, has campuses in Rocky Mount and Tarboro. With classes online and in person, the college serves about 5,500 individuals annually in its two-year degree, diploma, certificate and continuing education programs. ECC's main campus is located on 120 acres in Tarboro and comprises 12 buildings. In January 2020, the Barnhill-Jenkins Center for Innovation opened for classes on the Tarboro campus. This facility allows the college to better develop a skilled workforce in advanced manufacturing environments for area employers.

In November 2023, the Aspen Institute named ECC one of the top 150 institutions eligible to compete for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. Through a wide selection of programs and courses, ECC seeks to improve both the quality of life and the economic outlook of its students and area residents. With classes in subjects from small business management to electrical blueprints, ECC is equipping its students with practical skills that enable them to excel in their careers, homes, and communities.

TIDEWATER RESEARCH STATION

207 Research Station Rd
Plymouth, NC 27962
252-793-4118

The Tidewater Research Station in Washington County was established in 1943 to serve the area of North Carolina between the Coastal Plains region and coastal North Carolina. The research station is 1,550 acres with 840 acres of woodland, 525 acres of cropland, 100 acres of pasture, and 95 acres in ponds, building roads, and other related areas. The station is also home to the Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center which houses North Carolina State University faculty and extension specialists who conduct research in swine, beef, soil, entomology, plant pathology, and other areas. The station serves as the commercial Irish potato growing region of North Carolina and current research involves field crops, horticultural crops, soil, water, livestock, and aquaculture. The extensive system of canals, open ditches, and drainage tiles on the station have demonstrated how low-lying, undeveloped land can be made productive and has served as a pattern for area landowners.

WANCHESE MARINE INDUSTRIAL PARK

636 Harbor Rd
Wanchese, NC 27981
252-473-5867

The mission of the Wanchese Marine Industrial Park is to promote, enhance, and offer business opportunities for marine-related businesses in North Carolina. The park serves as a hub of fishing, seafood processing, boat building, dining, and site-seeing activities for Wanchese. Centrally located on the East Coast of the United States on the South End of historic Roanoke Island in Dare County, Wanchese Industrial Park enhances business opportunities in the seafood and marine trades. Watermen and seafood dealers draw their daily catches from the richest mix of cold and warm water finfish and shellfish on the Atlantic Seaboard. Located in the center of this region's phenomenal boatbuilding and boat maintenance markets, marine trade tenants can ship products overnight to major markets up and down the coast.

COASTAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

850 NC-345
Wanchese, NC 27981
252-475-5400

The Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) is one of the Integrated Coastal Programs under ECU's Coastal Studies umbrella. CSI is dedicated to transdisciplinary research, high-quality academic programs, and meaningful community engagement. The programs at CSI use an interdisciplinary approach and scientific advances to provide solutions to complex problems, helping coastal communities, ecosystems, and economies. Founded in 2003 and spanning 213 acres, the Institute partners with East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Wilmington, and Elizabeth City State University. Research at CSI covers a broad range of pressing environmental concerns faced by coastal North Carolina and the delicate ecosystems within.

TCOM

173 T Com Dr
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
410-312-3200

In 1971, TCOM ushered in the era of tethered aerostat system by designing the first powered tether and first mobile mooring station. These systems are aircraft that generate lift by using a gas to become lighter than air. With operations in over eighteen countries, corporate headquarters in Columbia, MD, and manufacturing and testing facilities in Elizabeth City, NC, TCOM is the world's only company devoted to designing, installing, and operating persistent surveillance aerostat systems. For over 50 years, TCOM innovations have defined the industry, and their pioneering achievements continue to revolutionize the design, manufacture, and deployment of lighter than air (LTA) systems. TCOM's complete platform solutions include numerous classes of aerostats that can each be equipped with a broad selection of proven customizable payloads for specific customer requirements.

NORTHEAST ACADEMY FOR AEROSPACE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES
1413 W Ehringhaus St
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
252-562-0653

Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies (NEAAAT) opened its doors in the fall of 2015 as a public charter school that has served nine local counties (Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Tyrell, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck Dare) to date. NEAAAT enrolls students in grades 5 through 12, who are selected through a lottery system after completing an application for admission. NEAAAT's mission is to be an innovative regional public school that inspires and prepares all students with the STEM-related skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to meet future challenges in the global workforce and their communities. NEAAAT offers instruction enhanced by authentic tasks and tools in the classroom.

The school's coaches use Project-Based Learning activities to develop higher-order thinking and work-related skills. At the middle school level, NEAAAT exposes students to four potential pathways: aviation science, computer science, advanced manufacturing, and health science. In high school, students can complete courses in these pathways to earn certifications. Additionally, students can take classes at Elizabeth City State University if they meet the minimum grade point average and receive a teacher recommendation, starting in the spring semester of their freshman year. In 11th grade, students can apply to, and if accepted, attend the College of the Albemarle as dual-enrolled students. Finally, NEAAAT fosters student growth by offering regional internship opportunities and encouraging community service participation.

DAEDALUS YACHTS
109 Anchors Way Dr
Edenton, NC 27932
252-368-9000

Daedalus Yachts is a premier yacht builder specializing in zero-emission yachts designed, built, and engineered using carbon fiber technology. The extensive use of carbon fiber—a lightweight yet incredibly strong material—enhances the performance and durability of their vessels. It helps significantly reduce weight while maintaining structural integrity, allowing for faster speeds, greater efficiency, and improved fuel economy. In addition to their advanced materials, Daedalus Yachts is leading the charge in electric propulsion, offering eco-friendly yachts that deliver silent, emission-free cruising. Their electric propulsion systems are designed to minimize environmental impact while maximizing efficiency, allowing owners to experience the thrill of yachting without compromising sustainability. By integrating renewable energy sources and cutting-edge propulsion technology, Daedalus is setting a new standard for green yachting in the luxury market. Combining American craftsmanship with modern technology, Daedalus delivers high-performance, luxurious yachts that are revolutionizing the future of yachting.

AGAPE HEALTH SERVICES

1130 Godwin Ave

Williamston, NC 27892

252-789-0401

Agape Health Services began as a healthcare center established in Washington, NC in 1996. Since then, it has opened locations in Williamston and Plymouth, with its newest location, an orthopedic center opening in Williamston in 2024. Agape Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and serves 6,000-7,000 patients each year. FQHCs are community-based health care organizations that provide care and support services to under served populations. These are often referred to as community health centers. There are 42 FQHCs in North Carolina. Agape provides medical, dental, pharmacy, orthopedic, and behavioral health services on a sliding pay scale to help make health care affordable to all patients.

LODGING & DINING

NC COAST GRILL AND BAR; RED SKY CAFE

1184 Duck Rd

Duck, NC 27949

Catering location - 329 Audubon Dr, Corolla, NC 27927

252-248-3211

NC Coast Grill & Bar celebrates the flavors of the coastal South while incorporating cross-cultural and global influences. Owner Wes Stepp, a longtime Outer Banks chef known for Red Sky Café and Tastefully Fit, describes NC Coast's food as cutting-edge coastal and Southern, with nuances from around the world. At NC Coast, the food is showcased in the centerpiece open kitchen, and guests are invited to sit at the Chef's Tasting tables at the bar, right alongside the kitchen.

Chef Wes along with others in the Outer Banks are partnering on a Blue Zone type Project for the region. Blue Zones are areas that have been identified in which people live measurably better and longer lives, with more people reaching the age of 100 and less chronic illnesses. These areas were studied and characteristics were identified that may explain the longevity. The Blue Zone Project focuses on influencing the area close to home to have more healthy choices that are unavoidable such as healthier food, more natural movement, positive outlook, and sense of belonging. Chef Wes has looked at some of the healthier ways of these areas and adapted the healthier culture into his cuisine. Chef Wes and other team members will help us learn more about Blue Zones while catering a dinner that fits the Blue Zone Project way.

HILTON GARDEN INN OUTER BANKS/KITTY HAWK

5353 N Virginia Dare Trl

Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

252-248-3211

The Hilton Garden Inn Outer Banks/Kitty Hawk is the premier Outer Banks hotel. Located in close proximity to the Kitty Hawk fishing Pier, the Hilton Garden Inn features a private balcony in each room that boasts views of the region's unique scenery. The hotel also features a complimentary 24-hour business center, a fully-equipped fitness room, and an indoor pool. Complimentary Wi-Fi is provided for all guests.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Danielle Dietz | dietzd21@ecu.edu

Assistant Professor, Special Education
College of Education

Danielle Dietz earned her Doctorate in Special Education from Slippery Rock University. She recently joined the ECU faculty in Spring 2025 after serving for three and a half years as the Instructional Specialist in the Supporting Transition and Education through Planning and Partnerships (STEPP) Program at ECU. At present time, Dietz is interested in researching the supports that individuals with disabilities find the most helpful during their transition from high school to college. Originally from Pennsylvania, Dietz loves exploring North Carolina and the United States. Her and her husband have traveled to all of the lower 48 states together. She is an active Athletics coach for Special Olympics North Carolina.



Latrice Ferguson | fergusonla24@ecu.edu

Assistant Professor, Library Sciences
College of Education

Latrice Ferguson earned her masters in Library Science in 2011 with a certificate in school library media and youth services. Currently, she is finishing her dissertation in Literacy Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include community literacies and histories and how those practices and histories show up in public spaces. Additionally, Ferguson has an interest in literature and folk music for children and how we share them with children, especially in live performances.



Allison Flowers | flowersa19@ecu.edu

Director, Office of Faculty Affairs & Leadership Development
Brody School of Medicine

Allison Flowers earned her masters in Adult Education and is in the process of earning her doctorate in Higher Education Leadership. For her dissertation research, she is completing a Program Evaluation of Office of Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development (OFALD) Mentoring Advice Program. She is also interested in using quantitative and qualitative data to improve OFALD's existing programming, as well as in identifying and building new programming to support faculty and staff. She is certified in Coaching and Mentoring and Emotional Intelligence Assessment and uses those mechanisms to help others improve their professional and personal lives.

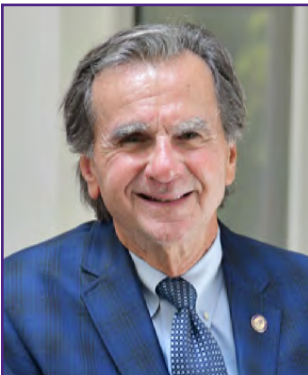
BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Amy Frank | franka@ecu.edu

Director of Community College and Military Outreach, Senior Instructor
Department of Technology Systems, College of Engineering and Technology

Amy Frank earned her masters of science in Industrial Technology. Her interests include providing degree options to best serve the needs of the community within the fields of applied engineering and technology. Franks' areas of expertise include engineering graphics, computer aided design, AutoCAD, Inventor, degree completion programs, transfer and military credit evaluations, adult education, recruitment, undergraduate and graduate academic advising and curriculum



Warren Gabaree | gabareew24@ecu.edu

Clinical Assistant Professor, General Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine

Warren Gabaree earned his doctorate in dental surgery from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. His research interest include developing and evaluating dental hygiene models of care that are oral health and disease-prevention driven; delivery of care models that seek to incorporate existing, new, and emerging technology and protocols to better address patient's oral healthcare in the presence of multiple comorbidities; and dental hygiene delivery of care models that seek to improve a patient's overall systemic health through improved oral health.



Chip Galusha | galusham16@ecu.edu

Interim Director, Miller School of Entrepreneurship
Teaching Instructor Leadership and Professional Development
College of Business

Chip Galusha has a masters in business administration from ECU and has been on the faculty since 2016. As a member of the Miller School team his goals revolve around encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship in all of its forms. He sees entrepreneurship and small business as a backbone for regional transformation.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Jerry Gao | gaoz24@ecu.edu

Professor and Department Chair, Construction Management
College of Engineering and Technology

Jerry Gao earned his doctorate in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University. His research interests include (1) green and lean construction, (2) visualization of the design and construction process, and (3) advanced concrete materials and construction. Gao's main research goal aims to create smart and sustainable construction systems. He integrates current technologies with traditional construction techniques and materials, and therefore makes the construction operation faster, safer, and more accurate.



Chris Geyer | geyer@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, Anatomy and Cell Biology
Brody School of Medicine

Chris Geyer completed a bachelors in Biology at Virginia Tech and then worked for two small biotechnology companies before leaving to pursue his PhD in Cellular and Structural Biology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Afterwards, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The Geyer laboratory uses the stem cell-based developmental system of mouse spermatogenesis as a model system to investigate mechanisms regulating cellular differentiation and meiotic initiation. These processes are essential for the daily production of millions of sperm required to sustain fertility throughout the lengthy male reproductive lifespan.



Erick Yates Green | [greene@ecu.edu](mailto:green@ecu.edu)

Associate Professor, Film and Video Production, School of Art and Design
College of Fine Arts and Communication

Erick Green, Filmmaker and Associate Professor, has recently directed, produced and served as cinematographer for a series of documentaries in NC including: *The Mayor Who Stood Up* [about a Washington, DC civil rights activist who became a powerful mayor in a small rural NC town], *The New Country Doctor* [about a rural NC family physician struggling to keep his practice alive], *The Golden K Club* [a profile of a group of senior citizen volunteers in a Greenville, NC service club] as well as *Mrs. Buck in Her Prime* [about an irrepressible 104 year old church organist in Washington, NC], and *The Hope of Education* [profiling a committed principal who leads a group of challenged high school students who are doing their best to make it to graduation day].

He has also partnered with Dr. Anne Dickerson in the ECU School of Occupational Therapy to make three award-winning narrative fiction films that are being utilized as training films for EMS specialists, occupational therapists as well as nurse practitioners in the evaluation of at-risk drivers in North Carolina [funded by the US National Highway Safety Commission and the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program].

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Karson Nelson Hallow | nelsonkars21@ecu.edu

Director, Strategic Initiatives and Legislative Liaison
Office of the Chancellor

Karson Nelson Hallow earned her master's of public administration at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She represents ECU with lawmakers and governmental agencies in Raleigh and Washington DC where she highlights the strengths and challenges of our university region. Her work entails building and maintaining relationships for effective advocacy, strategically communicating data, and lived experiences, and facilitating constructive discussions among various stakeholder groups. Hallow engages faculty and staff at the university to support our mission of student success, public service, and regional transformation in partnership with our state legislators, council of state offices, and our congressional delegation. As a rural Mississippi native, she feels right at home in eastern NC and appreciates the innovative and entrepreneurial mindsets of rural communities.



Jeannine Manning Hutson | hutsonj@ecu.edu

Chief Communications Officer
ECU News and Communications

Jeannine Manning Hutson earned her bachelors degree in English from Meredith College and masters degree from UNC-Greensboro. She has served in a variety of communication roles at ECU during her 25+ year career at the university. Hutson was named chief communications officer in 2020 and also serves as director of University Communications, which includes writers, media relations specialists, web developers, graphic designers, marketing, social and digital media, photography and videography.



Marly Irby | carmonauzcateguim24@ecu.edu

Environmental Specialist, Center for Sustainable Energy and
Environmental Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Marly Irby earned her doctorate in Forest Resources with a concentration in Sustainable Bioproducts from Mississippi State University. Her research interests focus on environmental sustainability, including sustainable materials, forest conservation, climate change mitigation, and pollution prevention. She is also passionate about addressing environmental justice and fostering community engagement. Other interests include green urban spaces and using art, storytelling, and marketing as tools for environmental advocacy, all of which contribute to her holistic approach to sustainability that engages both people and the planet.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Debra Louise Jackson | jacksondeb24@ecu.edu

Dean of the Graduate School
Graduate School

Debra Jackson is Dean of the Graduate School at East Carolina University. Serving approximately 5,000 graduate students annually with over 1,200 graduate faculty, ECU offers 68 masters degrees, 13 doctoral degrees, and 6 professional degrees as well as 87 graduate certificate programs. The Graduate School oversees recruitment and admissions for all graduate programs (except medicine and dentistry); distributes graduate student packages; processes contracts for graduate assistantships; delivers student success and professional development workshops for graduate students; hosts graduate student research showcase events and competitions; offers graduate faculty development workshops; and manages the implementation of policies and procedures governing graduate students and graduate programs. Jackson earned her PhD in Philosophy from Purdue University.



Bryan Jenkins | jenkinsbr21@ecu.edu

Director, 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 ECU in the Greenville area as well as the region where he highlights the assets and 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 closely with ECU's director of strategic initiatives, Karson Hallow, to intentionally engage with faculty and staff at the university, community leaders, regional partners, state legislators, council of state offices, and our Washington DC delegation. Jenkins was born and raised in Northampton County in eastern North Carolina, so his love and admiration for eastern NC stems back to his roots.



Jerry Johnson | johnsonjerr22@ecu.edu

Professor and Interim Director, Rural Education Institute
College of Education

Jerry Johnson earned his doctorate in educational studies from Ohio University. His research interests include rural education policy, community schools, and place-based learning. Johnson's two main areas of work include using large-scale extant datasets to investigate state and federal policy impacts on rural schools and communities, and technical assistance/applied research to support community school implementation and community development strategies in rural settings.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Abhyudaya Joshi | abhyudaya.joshi@ecuhealth.org

Hospital Medicine Physician
ECU Health Medical Center

Abhyudaya Joshi is a hospitalist physician at ECU Health in Greenville. He earned his MD at Cornell University and masters in business administration from Duke University and is board certified in Internal Medicine. He is a business enthusiast and is interested in helping medical students and residents discover their innovative potential through entrepreneurship activities. He has a special interest in rural health innovation and wants to explore the confluence of medicine, business, policy, and technology in the rural health domain.



Jin-Ae Kang | kangj@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, School of Communication
College of Fine Arts and Communication

Jin-Ae Kang earned his doctorate in mass communication (specializing in public relations) from the University of Alabama. Her research lies in the areas of public relations ethics, communication technology and health communication, and navigating the impact of emerging media on PR strategies and health-related crisis/risk communication and community building. Her research areas also include the role of strategic storytelling in various communication contexts. She is recently exploring the positive impact of social media on individuals' well-being and mental health. For teaching, she is interested in promoting sustainability through service-learning projects and campaign planning.



Laxmansa (Lax) Katwa | katwal@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, Physiology
Brody School of Medicine

Laxmansa Katwa earned his doctorate in biochemistry, with post-doctoral training at the Dalton Cardiovascular Center at University of Missouri-Columbia (UMC). He worked as an assistant professor on signaling pathways leading to heart disease. Katwa joined ECU's Brody School of Medicine as a faculty member in July 1999 and has been involved in training medical, dental, and graduate students. He has a long-term research commitment in understanding the mechanisms of heart attack and heart diseases in cardiovascular research in the Department of Physiology. He is enthusiastic about teaching and training on the digestive and cardiovascular systems with physicians, dentists, graduate, undergraduate, and high school honor med students in biomedical research. Katwa is interested in understanding current lifestyle, food habits, and ongoing community health problems such as diabetes and heart disease in eastern North Carolina.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Jalayer (Jolly) Khalilzadeh | khalilzadehj19@ecu.edu

Assistant Professor, School of Hospitality Leadership
College of Business

Jalayer (Jolly) Khalilzadeh earned his doctorate in Hospitality Management from the University of Central Florida. He has a passion for network and [complex] system science research in general, and their applications in tourism and hospitality, in particular. He is the founder and head of the Tour-Complex (aka T-Complex) virtual lab, which was established in 2015 to study hospitality, travel, and tourism from the [complex] system and network science perspectives. His works have been published in top-ranked academic journals. Khalilzadeh has various editorial positions in international blind peer-reviewed journals. Currently, he serves as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Tourism at ECU.



Jay Lee | leejun@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, School of Hospitality Leadership
College of Business

Jay Lee earned his doctorate in Human Ecology (Hospitality Management and Dietetics) from Kansas State University. His research centers on hospitality organizational behavior including emotional labor, emotional intelligence, customer service orientation, service sabotage, burnout, and employee engagement. Currently, he is working on research projects on cultural intelligence, ethnocentrism, customer mistreatment of service employees, and senior workforce/customers in hospitality.



Karen Litwa | litwak16@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, Anatomy and Cell Biology
Brody School of Medicine

Karen Litwa earned her doctorate in biochemistry, cell, and developmental biology from Emory University before pursuing post-doctoral training in cellular neuroscience at the University of Virginia. Her research focuses on synapse formation in the developing brain. For her research, she has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, including a prestigious CAREER award. Her research focuses on defining molecular mechanisms that regulate synapse formation; understanding how genetic mutations and environmental factors impact synapse formation, leading to neurodevelopmental disorders; and identifying neuroprotective interventions for developing brains.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Ryan Martin | martinry@ecu.edu

Professor, Health Education and Promotion
College of Health and Human Performance

Ryan Martin received his doctorate in Health Education from the University of Alabama. He serves as the Director of Graduate Studies in the department and is the Program Director of the master's in Health Education program. His research interests include addictive behaviors, with a specific focus on gambling behavior, and mental health. Most of his past studies involved quantitative survey research using samples of college students.



Carol Massarra | massarrac19@ecu.edu

Assistant Professor, Construction Management
College of Engineering and Technology

Carol Massarra earned a PhD in Engineering Science with a concentration in Construction Management from Louisiana State University. She employs an interdisciplinary research approach to enhance buildings, the environment, and overall quality of life. Her research spans multiple disciplines and has been supported by organizations such as the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Her primary focus areas include community resilience, predictive statistical models, and automated data collection and damage assessment. As a Graduate Program Director, Massarra actively engages with students from diverse backgrounds, fostering a strong research culture among them. Currently, she is working on a project to develop a predictive maintenance model for buildings using LoRa sensors.



William J. McClung | mcclungw18@ecu.edu

Senior Teaching Instructor, Technology Systems
College of Engineering and Technology

William McClung completed his bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering at Ohio State University. He spent 24 years in industry in design, engineering, maintenance, and operations roles which covered a wide range of products and industries. Firetrucks, forklifts, and phosphate were the main products on which he worked. McClung returned to college in 2014 and got his masters in Technology Management from East Carolina University. He followed this with a masters of Industrial Engineering at North Carolina State University. In 2018 he accepted a teaching position in the department of Technology Systems where he teaches robotics, automation, engineering economics, factory design, and lean systems. McClung's research interests include technology adoption and application to medium and small business and how to better prepare these organizations to leverage new technology.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Briana McIntosh | mcintoshb24@ecu.edu

Director of Research and Engagement, Center for Health Disparities
Department of Pharmacology Toxicology
Brody School of Medicine

Briana McIntosh has a diverse public health career spanning both Jamaica and the United States. Currently, she is the Director of Research and Engagement for Team Cooke Bailey, focusing on health disparities related to ocular diseases, including glaucoma. In this role, she serves as the public health specialist for complex genetic studies and various research projects in the lab. She leads the Jamaica Eye Study, an innovative research initiative to explore clinical and public health aspects of glaucoma's impact on the island. Locally, she collaborates with community partners and healthcare stakeholders to enhance access to vision screening and eye health education in eastern North Carolina.

McIntosh is also a proud double alumna of the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies and a Master of Public Health in behavioral and community health sciences, with a concentration in health equity and global health. Her unique combination of education, community engagement, and research equips her to be a leader committed to community-focused initiatives, pushing boundaries, and discovering inventive solutions to alleviate the effects of social determinants of health on local, national, and global scales.



Stacey Meardon | meardons@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, Interim-Chair, Department of Physical Therapy
College of Allied Health Sciences

Stacey Meardon earned her physical therapy degree from Washington University in St. Louis and her doctorate in kinesiology from Iowa State University, focusing on biomechanics, motor control, and physical activity monitoring. Her research group investigates neuromuscular and biomechanical factors contributing to injury and pain during physical activity, with a special emphasis on bone health. They aim to identify factors leading to elevated tissue loads and injuries, targeting interventions to remove barriers to physical activity. Additionally, they explore how postural control, movement variability, and coordination contribute to injury. Their work is primarily conducted in the Movement Biomechanics Lab and the Sensorimotor Testing and Rehabilitation Lab, part of the Department of Physical Therapy's Human Movement Analyses Labs at ECU. With the right resources, their research can expand beyond the lab using portable equipment.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Laura Merrell | merrell24@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, Health Education and Promotion
College of Health and Human Performance

Laura Merrell holds a PhD in Public Health from the University of South Florida, specializing in Community and Family Health. Her research centers on health literacy, particularly its role in sexual and reproductive health and maternal health. Merrell wishes to connect with community partners to enhance maternal health in eastern North Carolina. She also explores perceptions of HPV vaccination, focusing on involving oral health providers in preventing HPV-related cancers. Across all her efforts, she prioritizes advancing health equity through health literacy initiatives.



Morteza Nazari-Heris | nazariherism24@ecu.edu

Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Morteza Nazari-Heris (Senior Member, IEEE) is an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Department of Engineering at East Carolina University (ECU) and is also affiliated with the Center for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering (CSE3). Before this, he served as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Energy Systems at Lawrence Tech and as a Graduate Research Assistant in the Areas of National Need at Pennsylvania State University. Nazari-Heris specializes in power and energy systems, having successfully led several large-scale projects in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, energy systems optimization, and the application of machine learning to energy systems. He has authored 63 journal articles, 28 conference papers, and 28 book chapters, showcasing his significant contributions to the field. Dr. Nazari-Heris is passionate about advancing renewable energy systems, communities power grid resilience, and preparing the next generation of engineers to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving energy landscape.



Julie Kennedy Oehlert | julie.oehlert@ecuhealth.org

Chief Experience Officer
ECU Health

Julie Oehlert has served in a variety of clinical, operational, consultative, and strategic roles across the healthcare continuum. Her clinical practice is Emergency Trauma nursing, and she achieved her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Health Innovation and Leadership from University of Minnesota. In her role, Oehlert strategically drives the human experience at ECU Health. This includes patient experience, patient education and patient and family advisor programs, and team member and provider experiences including oversight of orientation and onboarding of new team members, recognition, and workforce well-being. She chairs the Team Safety steering committee, driving organizational prevention, reporting, patient and team member education, responses and resources for those affected by workforce aggression. She leads internal and external communications, marketing, digital, social, and public relations for the health system. Oehlert has operational responsibility for Environmental Services, Food Services, Language Access Services, and Hospitality.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Teresa Ryan | ryante@ecu.edu

Professor and Chair, Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Teresa Ryan earned a bachelors in mechanical engineering with a certificate in bioengineering from Georgia Tech. The first phase of her career was in biomedical device development, developing methods for transdermal glucose monitoring and transdermal delivery of a variety of pharmaceuticals. She then followed her calling as an educator into the high school science classroom, teaching physics, biology, and physical science before returning to graduate study, earning her PhD in mechanical engineering from The Catholic University of America. Ryan joined the ECU Engineering faculty in 2013 and her passion for education and research has flourished here. She has established a research lab that has empowered scores of undergraduate students by investigating a variety of mechanical vibration and atmospheric acoustics topics. Her primary research project has been an ongoing effort, funded continuously by the Office of Naval Research since 2014, to understand how weather and sea and ground surface conditions affect sound over long distances near shore. She served as interim chair of the Department of Engineering starting in summer 2024 and assumed duties as permanent chair in January 2025.



Kathie Sidner | ksidner@northcarolina.edu

Director of Workforce and Partnerships
UNC System Office

Kathie Sidner serves on the Workforce and Military Affairs team at the University of North Carolina (UNC) System Office. She supports UNC system-wide economic and workforce development efforts, military affiliated students, and defense and industry partnerships. Sidner has 25 years of experience in government, national security, and higher education, with expertise in strategic partnerships, research development, program management, and all-source analysis.

Sidner has secured \$40M+ to support UNC System research collaborations with military units based in North Carolina and other Department of Defense agencies. She has managed classified research programs and internship programs with US Special Operations Forces. She is a leading member of the UNC System's Economic Transformation Council. She has led various initiatives including military credit articulation, marketing campaigns, outside research studies, and policies supporting military student access and success.

Sidner earned a bachelors in Chemical Engineering from the University of Virginia and masters in Chemical Engineering from NC State University. Prior to joining the UNC System, she worked in the U.S. Intelligence Community as a chemical weapons and counterterrorism analyst and provided technical program management for two US Army university affiliated research centers (UARCs) in nanotechnology and biotechnology.

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Scott Snead | sneads19@ecu.edu

Director of Industry Relations and Center for Innovation
in Technology and Engineering
College of Engineering and Technology

Scott Snead earned a degree in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University in 1990. He spent the first 13 years of his career with the NC Department of Correction before transitioning to private industry, where he focused on sales. He later returned to ECU, working in fundraising, primarily supporting the College of Engineering and Technology until a model change shifted fundraising priorities across all non-medical academic areas. In 2019, Snead assumed his current role at ECU's College of Engineering and Technology, where he connects industry partners with students to create experiential learning and career opportunities. In this capacity, he collaborates with colleagues in the CET Student Success Center and ECU Career Services to enhance student success and also manages the college's scholarship program. Additionally, he plays a key role in fostering partnerships between industry and faculty for customized training, consulting, and research initiatives.



Karen Voytecki | voyteckik@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, Special Education
College of Education

Karen Voytecki earned her doctor of philosophy in special education from the University of South Florida. Her research interests include collaborative teaching, classroom management, and teacher education. Voytecki's current research studies include obtaining informed consent from vulnerable populations and utilizing humor to reduce teacher stress and burnout. She primarily teaches inclusive special education courses, class management, and supervises interns.



Wesley B. Webber | webberw21@ecu.edu

Assistant Professor, Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies
College of Allied Health Sciences

Wesley B. Webber earned his PhD in Counselor Education from the University of Alabama. His research has involved the measurement of both implicit and explicit social biases (e.g., race/gender stereotypes, attitudes towards individuals with disabilities, prejudice towards individuals on the basis of their religion). Having previously used electroencephalography (EEG) within this research line, Webber aims to extend his use of EEG research methods into the study of individual differences relevant to mental health disorders (specifically, individual differences in brain responses to rewarding stimuli).

BUS TOUR PARTICIPANTS



Peng Xiao | xiaop@ecu.edu

Associate Professor, Mathematics

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Peng Xiao received his PhD from University of Texas at Dallas. Xiao is an associate professor of Mathematics at ECU with expertise in statistical data analysis and its applications within health sciences, bioinformatics, and information technology. Since joining ECU, Xiao has successfully collaborated across scientific disciplines and served as a consultant/Co-PI on multiple cross-campus projects funded by agencies such as NIH, NSF and NC Biotechnology Center.

ECU LEADERSHIP & STAFF



Mary Farwell | farwellm@ecu.edu

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Development
Office of Research

As the assistant vice chancellor for research development, Mary Farwell administers programs that support faculty in their research endeavors. She also oversees the undergraduate research and postdoctoral affairs offices. Farwell received her ScB with Honors in Biology Magna cum Laude from Brown University and her PhD in Biochemistry from the UC-Berkeley. After an NIH-funded postdoctoral fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill, she joined the biology faculty at ECU in 1994 as an assistant professor and is currently a professor of biology.



Melanie Fiona Jackson | jacksonme24@ecu.edu

Director of Innovative Workforce Partnerships
Office of Innovation and Engagement

Melanie Fiona Jackson is an accomplished leader in workforce development, innovation, and collaborative partnerships. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and is a certified Academic Clinical Nurse Educator. Her experience spans healthcare, education, and her leadership is further enriched by proficiency in Lean Six Sigma methodologies and pastoral counseling. Jackson looks forward to connecting with partners to better understand their organizations' goals and exploring how ECU can support workforce development efforts of the region and beyond.



Cassie Keel | keelc15@ecu.edu

University Program Specialist, Engaged Research
Office of Innovation and Engagement

Cassie Keel earned a bachelor's in psychology from East Carolina University, a certificate in project management and is currently enrolled in ECU's master's of business administration program. As the university program specialist for the office of engaged research, Keel manages the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, ECU Purple and Gold Bus Tour, assists with the Engaged Outreach Scholars Academy (EOSA) and supports other office efforts.



Deborah Lundin | lundind22@ecu.edu

Director of Pre-Award Services
Office of Research

Deborah Lundin has been the Director of Pre-Award Services at ECU since March 2022, overseeing the central office pre-award services team. With two decades of experience as a research administrator, she has worked at PUI and R2 institutions in Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Ohio. Deborah has managed the pre-award lifecycle, including internal seed grants, coaching grantseekers, building budgets, reviewing proposals, and negotiating contracts. She has also developed and led training for new faculty and grantseekers. Deborah holds an Ed.D. in Adult, Higher, and Community Education from Ball State University and a CRA certification. She is a member of NCURA and SRAI.



Jim Menke | menkej@ecu.edu
Director of National Security Initiatives
Office of Innovation and Engagement

A retired Navy master chief, Jim Menke received a 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 in Washington, D.C.



Sharon Paynter | paynters@ecu.edu
Chief Innovation and Engagement Officer
Interim Chief Research Officer

Sharon R. Paynter is committed to advancing public engagement and institutional innovation, currently serving as East Carolina University's inaugural Chief Innovation and Engagement Officer. Over the past decade, she has led teams that significantly enhanced the university's research capacity and fostered collaborative partnerships. Paynter holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as a Master of Science in Legal Administration from the University of Denver. She earned her Doctorate in Public Administration from North Carolina State University, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University's Taubman Center. She is a tenured, associate professor of political science.



Kim Tilghman | tilghmank22@ecu.edu
Communications Specialist
University Communications

Kim Tilghman earned a bachelor's degree in film studies from UNC Wilmington. She started her career at WITN-TV, where she worked behind the scenes on live productions, managed the station's digital content, and helped build its brand through creative projects, including on-air promotional spots. Tilghman went on to spend six impactful years as a public communicator for the City of Jacksonville, shaping its messaging and strengthening community connections. In 2022, she joined the University Communications team at ECU, where she now serves as the communications liaison for the Office of Research and the Office of Innovation and Engagement.



Keith Wheeler | wheelerch18@ecu.edu
Executive Director of National Security and Industry Initiatives
Office of Innovation and Engagement

Keith Wheeler, a retired U.S. Navy captain, earned a 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.

R1 TOP-TIER RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

East Carolina University is now an R1 research institution, a designation given to the top research universities in the U.S. by the American Council on Education (ACE) and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

This is the highest level of research excellence, awarded to schools with the most funding, faculty-led research and graduate programs, placing ECU among 5% of institutions in the nation that hold the R1 designation.

ECU's R1 status strengthens its mission to serve – across North Carolina and around the globe. We are not just shaping the future. We're leading the way toward it.



What the R1 status means for stakeholders:

This distinction unlocks significant opportunities for **faculty and researchers**, enabling them to secure greater funding, pursue more cutting-edge research, and attract top-tier graduate students eager to contribute to advanced studies.

The R1 status elevates ECU's competitiveness on a national and global scale. As an R1 university, ECU is well-positioned to expand its impact through innovative discoveries, increased publication output, and enhanced academic prestige.

This status enhances our ability to drive scholarly inquiry in the arts and creative endeavors, health sciences, engineering, education, coastal and marine studies, and many other fields that are critical to **North Carolina and our world**.

It also reinforces our commitment to community-engaged research, ensuring that our work continues to address the needs of our region, from educational attainment, rural health care, workforce development to technological advancement.

An R1 status can attract more funding for research, scholarships, and hands-on learning opportunities, giving **students** access to advanced facilities and financial support through scholarships and assistantships.

A degree from an R1 institution enhances career prospects due to the university's reputation, strong industry connections, and opportunities for students to develop valuable skills through cutting-edge research experiences.

R1.ECU.EDU

LEADING THE NATION IN COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH

East Carolina University® has solidified its position as a national leader in community-engaged research, earning accolades that underscore its unwavering commitment to societal impact.

In November 2024, the **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)** honored ECU with the **C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Scholarship Award**, recognizing the university's exceptional dedication to addressing critical community needs through collaborative partnerships.

This prestigious award highlights ECU's innovative collaborations with external partners to develop mutually beneficial strategies to impact challenges.

ECU's commitment extends beyond health care. The university also received **APLU's Innovation and Economic Prosperity Award for Talent**, acknowledging its role as an economic catalyst in urban revitalization and its focus on education and workforce development throughout eastern NC.

These national recognitions affirm ECU's leadership in community-engaged research, showcasing a model where academic excellence meets societal needs. By fostering partnerships that yield tangible benefits, ECU exemplifies how universities can drive positive change, enrich student experiences, and strengthen communities.



ECU won the C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Award in 2012 and 2024 and is the only university to win the award more than once.



At ECU, community engagement is not just a priority; it is the foundation of our mission to drive regional and national transformation. Our partnerships, research initiatives, and programs continue to shape a brighter future for North Carolina and beyond.



ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"ECU's commitment to rural health for our communities is central to our DNA. It's who we are as an institution, and we lift up that commitment through our mission."

- Chancellor Philip Rogers

"Community engagement is a critical part of public universities' mission, and we're pleased to highlight the work of institutions that are instrumental to solving the most pressing challenges facing their communities through partnerships with other stakeholders."

- APLU President Mark Becker

East Carolina University's community engagement initiatives foster partnerships that address real-world challenges. Teams of students, faculty, and community leaders work together to integrate local needs into impactful projects, driving solutions that benefit both the university and the surrounding communities.

ECU's commitment to regional transformation shines through a wide range of community engaged initiatives facilitated by scholars across campus. From internships with local businesses and organizations to programs expanding healthcare access in rural areas, our scholars drive meaningful change. Research efforts focusing on critical issues like environmental health, disaster recovery, and affordable housing are enhanced by robust partnerships.

Through the continuous drive to find solutions and with a spirit of collaboration, ECU reaffirms its mission to transform communities and shape a brighter future for eastern North Carolina and our neighbors around the world.

Scan the QR code to find examples of community engaged research at ECU:



Learn more at REDE.ECU.EDU/ENGAGEMENT



Carnegie Foundation on Community Engagement

“Community engagement (CE) describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.”

“The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university resources with those of public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching, and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.”



OFFICE OF
ENGAGED RESEARCH





Community engaged scholarship (CES) creates collaboration with communities on issues that are jointly defined, in which both communities and educational institutions are stakeholders.

CES combines the search for new knowledge created across disciplines and how this knowledge can be applied through new programs and practices.

Community partners can serve as co-authors, co-principal investigators, and co-presenters among many other partnership roles.

Consider:

- How can your research and creative activities include community engaged scholarship?
- How can we ensure our work is mutually beneficial for the community partner and the university?
- How do you engage your community partners and include their experience?



Check out ECU Community Engagement in the News!





Engagement through **public service** at ECU is the use of university resources to address societal challenges and contribute to the common good.¹

Engagement through **outreach** is the voluntary provision of programs, services, or expertise for those outside the traditional university community.

Public service and outreach provide opportunities for the campus community to learn, serve and lead with our community as active citizens and advocates for positive social change.

Consider:

- What are outlets for disseminating outreach and engagement activities in your discipline?
- What are examples of public service or outreach in your unit?
- What are best practices for using public service as a form of community engagement?



Check out ECU's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement!¹





Community Engaged Learning (CEL) combines academic coursework with the application of institutional resources to address challenges facing communities.

Strategies include direct service, advocacy, research, philanthropy, and more.

Strategies emphasize: (1) addressing societal needs identified by the community (2) intentional integration of learning objectives co-created with community partners (3) clearly articulated mutual benefits and (4) opportunities for critical reflection.

Consider:

- How do community partners contribute to and evaluate CEL experiences?
- How are CEL experiences recognized in your discipline?
- How could CEL experiences become integrated with scholarship or external funding opportunities?



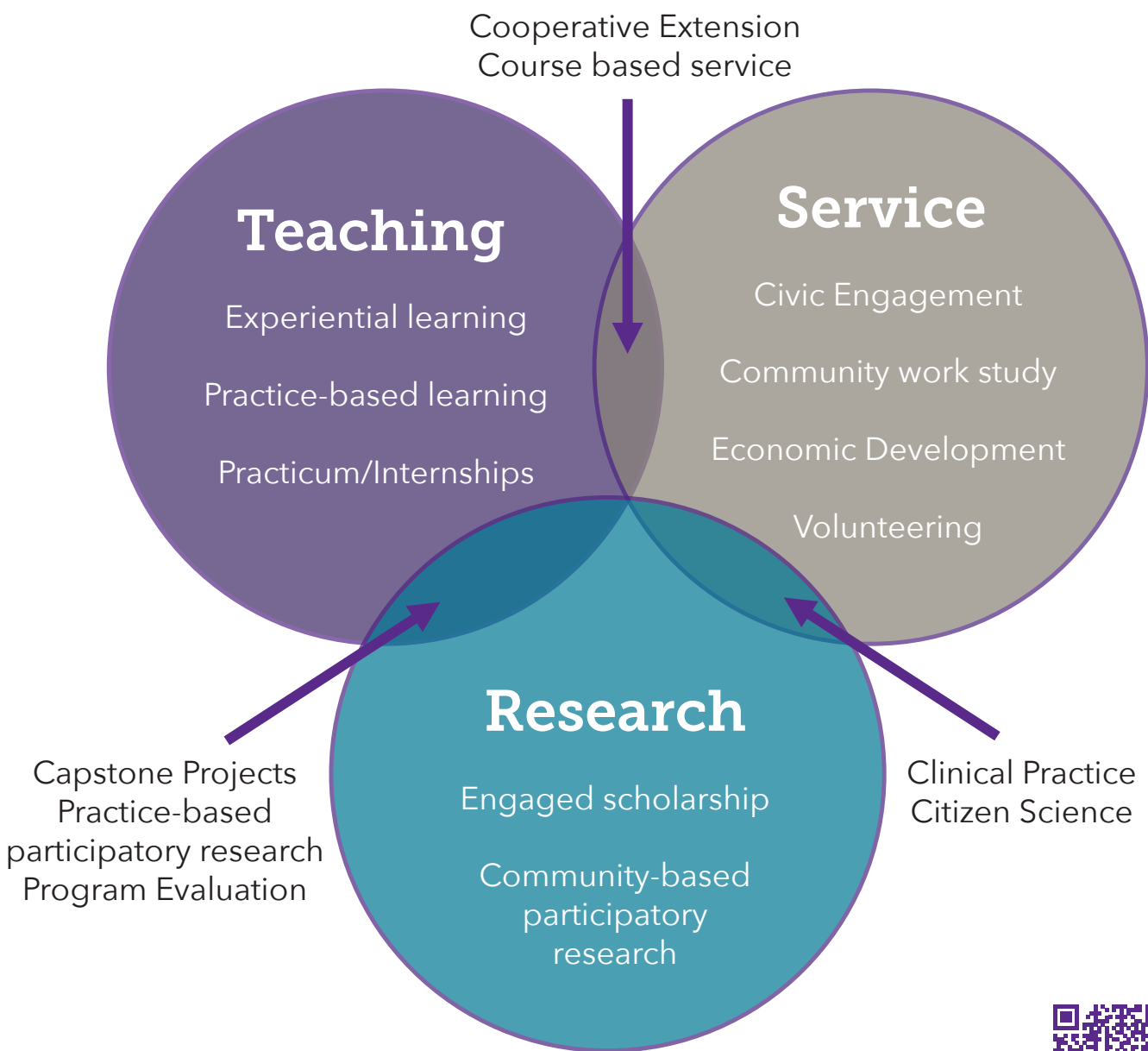
Check out ECU's Community Engaged Learning!





Since 2008, ECU has held the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification from the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This acknowledgement highlights the work the university and its partners do together in communities across the globe.

Pathways to Engage at ECU:

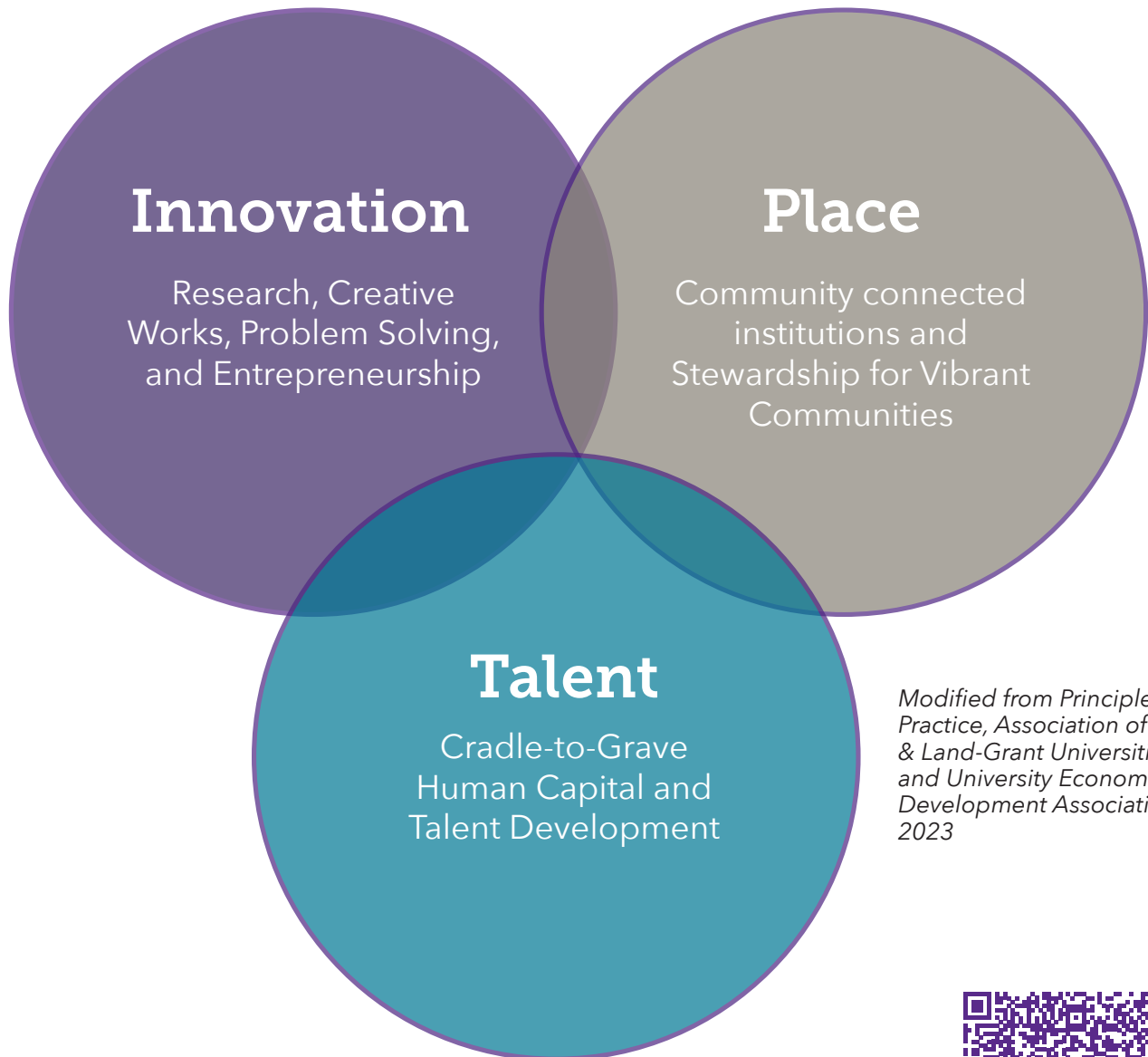


Learn more about ECU's Carnegie Classification!





ECU has held the Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) Designation since 2015. This designation recognizes higher education institutions to better know, measure, tell, and enhance their economic and community development impact while recognizing a substantive, sustainable, and institution-wide commitment for regional economic engagement, growth, and economic opportunity.



Modified from Principles of Practice, Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities and University Economic Development Association, 2023



Check out the Innovation and Economic Prosperity Program!



CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE)

Learning That Lasts A Lifetime

East Carolina University's® Office of Continuing and Professional Education provides dynamic, high quality, and accessible learning opportunities to enrich the lives of adult learners in eastern North Carolina and beyond.

Our mission is to:

- Deliver professional education that is responsive to industry and workforce needs;
- Provide learning opportunities that improve quality of life for individuals and communities;
- Provide event management and course administration to allow clients to focus on content delivery.



Annette Kariko

Director of Continuing and Professional Education
KARIKOA21@ecu.edu

OUR SERVICES

 Workshops

 Career Training

 Microcredentials

 CEU Hours

 Trips & Immersive Events

 Conference Planning

CONNECT WITH US:

CPE.ECU.EDU | cpe@ecu.edu | 252-328-9198
Willis Building, 300 E. 1st Street, Mail Stop 310



OFFICE OF CONTINUING & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION



OUR PROGRAM



Volunteer



Workshops



Classes



Trips



**Immersive
Events**



Volunteer

PROPOSE CONTENT

If you would like to offer your expertise as an instructor or propose an experiential trip or event, submit a Content Proposal! Visit llp.ecu.edu and click on Volunteer, then Course Proposal.

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM (LLP)

Connect, Engage, Inspire

The Lifelong Learning Program at East Carolina University® offers adults affordable learning experiences in a relaxed atmosphere, without entrance requirements, exams, or grades. Our purpose is to connect, engage and inspire the eastern North Carolina community by providing interesting and stimulating speakers, enriching courses, workshops and lectures, special events, enjoyable trips, and more!

Participants are encouraged to tap into the rich intellectual and cultural resources of the university, experts, and talented peers who are willing to share their expertise and valuable insight. This gateway to learning also provides a setting for making new friends and developing new social networks with people from different walks of life.



Annette Kariko
Director



Heather Payne
Specialist



Lauryn Pittman
Admin



Hari Aligineni
Grad Student



Rod Fincannon
Marketing

CONNECT WITH US:

LLP.ECU.EDU | LLP@ecu.edu | 252-328-9198, Option 2
Willis Building, 300 E. 1st Street, Mail Stop 310



OFFICE OF CONTINUING &
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION





Approved by
**UNC System Board of
Governors**
in 2015



**6 East Carolina
University-owned sites**



Encompasses more than
500 acres spanning
over **100 miles** across
eastern NC

EAST CAROLINA® RESEARCH & INNOVATION CAMPUS

INNOVATION, DISCOVERY, SOLUTIONS

The East Carolina Research and Innovation Campus (ECRIC) houses cutting-edge research facilities, labs, and makerspaces where East Carolina University faculty, staff, and students engage in innovative and collaborative public-private partnerships.

ECRIC advances commitments ECU makes to education, research, and service as well as to building an innovation culture that facilitates regional transformation. In higher education, economic development means working with partners and stakeholders to create sustainable growth in the competitive capacities that contribute to the advancement of society. For ECU, that means developing university research, entrepreneurship and business programming, lab and collaboration spaces, entrepreneurship incubators and campus attractions in intentional, focused, and strategic ways. ECRIC is one place where university-driven economic development can thrive.

The university is authorized to enter public-private partnerships on “millennial campuses” with business partners that share the university’s goal of advancing economic development via North Carolina statute with approval from the University of North Carolina System. These partnerships combine the assets and talent of a university with the experience and resources of a private development partner to bring a project to market in an expressed time frame.

CONTACT US: ECRIC.ECU.EDU



Merrill Flood

Director of Research and Innovation Campus
Development
FLOODM18@ECU.EDU
252-737-2256

*"The Millennial Campus, which will be known as **East Carolina Research and Innovation Campus (ECRIC)**, would be developed to enhance the research, teaching, and service missions of ECU by accelerating and expanding collaborative research, health sciences, teaching, and service to champion economic and community development for both Greenville and the region, producing innovations in education, science, technology, and the arts that address local and regional challenges while equipping the region with a magnet to attract talent and investment."*
- UNC System Board of Governors , April 10, 2015

The assets of East Carolina University are being deployed to advance the economy of the region, and ECRIC provides focused hubs of capabilities that concentrate on regional needs. **ECRIC's network currently encompasses six sites**, spanning over 100 hundred miles across eastern North Carolina. Resources within each district and area are available to **support research, discovery, innovation, entrepreneurship, incubation, manufacturing and commercialization.**

COASTAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

Led by ECU, the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) is a multi-institutional research and educational partnership of the UNC System. Located in Manteo, CSI focuses on integrated coastal research and education programming centered around the needs, issues, and concerns of coastal regions by bringing together the various disciplines of both the natural and social sciences.

HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS

ECU's Health Sciences Campus is home to the Brody School of Medicine, Colleges of Allied Health and Nursing, and the School of Dental Medicine. The Health Sciences Campus also encompasses centers and institutes of concentrated multi-disciplinary sciences and expertise in addressing the region's most pressing health care disparities.

UPTOWN CAMPUS AREA

ECU's Uptown Campus area provides a vital connection to the main campus with the Uptown Greenville and the Tar River waterfront. Several ECU administrative facilities are located in the area near ECU's Warehouse District holdings. These properties comprise a sizable portion of Greenville's Uptown/Center City area and position ECU to play a significant part in ongoing revitalization efforts in the city's urban core. ECU's comprehensive master plan considers a visual and performing arts center, conference center, and/or alumni center among the innovative options for this property.

GREENHOUSE CAMPUS

ECU's Greenhouse Campus is located in northeast area of Greenville and consists of one vacant parcel. The area is one of the newest additions to ECRIC's network. The vision for the parcel is for the development of a research greenhouse and adjacent field test site that advances the work of ECU faculty and student researchers with industry partners.

STRATFORD ARMS AREA

Stratford Arms campus properties are located adjacent to ECU's athletic and human performance complex. The undeveloped area represents longer term opportunities through public-private partnerships to develop a live, work and play complex supportive of the ECU athletic and performance assets. Existing buildings in the area include the Belk educational facility, several recreational soccer fields, and facilities maintenance. The area also connects to Greenville's Greenway.

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

ECU is currently transforming its Warehouse District into the next phase of the expanding campus through a public-private partnership. The area is anchored by the Life Sciences & Biotechnology Building, which houses the Eastern Region Pharma Center. It also encompasses more than 22 acres of opportunities to restore and reuse valuable historic properties and accelerate reinvestment activities within Greenville's city center and arts district for collaborative research, innovation, and economic development.



Find more info at ECRIC.ECU.EDU





ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SCHOLARS ACADEMY

The Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy (EOSA) is a national model for engaged scholarship. EOSA provides professional development and project support for research that connect campus with communities. Projects result in a culture of partnership, reciprocity, and high-quality scholarship. Faculty selected to the program participate in cohort-based workshops and develop a research project with their community partner. Graduate and undergraduate students join each research team and participate in the Student Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy.



Projects in 27 eastern NC counties



105+ community partners



145 faculty members



CONNECT WITH US: [GO.ECU.EDU/EOSA](https://go.ecu.edu/eosa)



Dr. Rachel Gittman
Faculty Fellow
Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy
252-328-9986
GITTMANR17@ECU.EDU

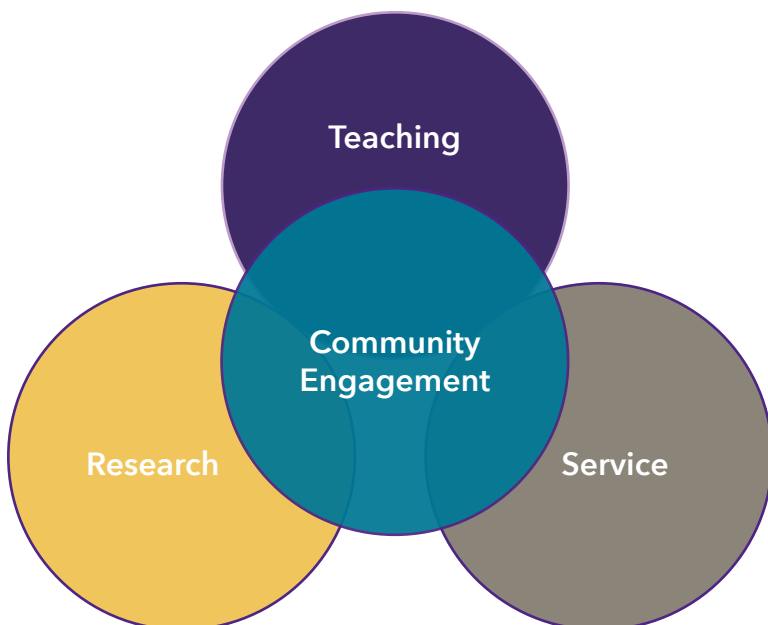
Data captured since 2009



EOSA was created to increase the knowledge of, motivation for, and resource capacity in community engagement with external partners.

Scholarship of Engagement

- The scholarship of engagement refers to the pursuit of new knowledge through the integration of mutually beneficial teaching, research, and service.
- Community engaged scholarship makes connections across disciplines and how newly generated knowledge can be applied to new processes.
- Engagement through public service and outreach provide opportunities to transform social issues.
- Community engaged learning not only transmits knowledge but also transforms and extends it to include service, advocacy, and more.





INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS



East Carolina University® is bridging the gap between academia, industry, and community through high-impact collaborations that equip students with the essential skills and opportunities needed for career success. These partnerships result in the creation of innovative job training, apprenticeship, and career placement programs, all tailored to meet the diverse needs of our students and region.

By aligning educational outcomes with the dynamic demands of industry, these programs not only enhance workforce readiness but also contribute to regional economic growth. ECU's Innovative Workforce Partnerships is helping to ensure that students have access to sustainable career opportunities, empowering individuals and communities for long-term success.



Key Initiatives:

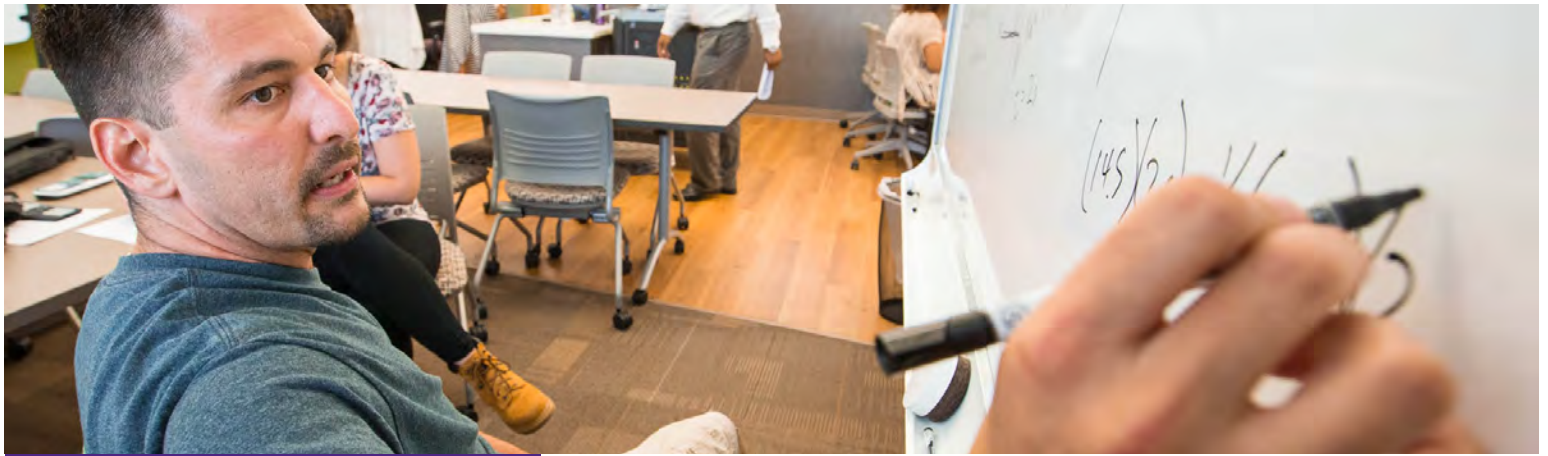
- Collaborating with academic departments to align curriculum with industry needs
- Designing training programs that provide real-world skills
- Building sustainable partnerships to address local workforce gaps
- Creating career pathways that lead to meaningful employment opportunities
- Driving economic development through accessible workforce solutions



CONNECT WITH US: [GO.ECU.EDU/INNOVATION](https://go.ecu.edu/innovation)



Dr. Melanie Fiona Jackson
Director
Innovative Workforce Partnerships
252-328-9520
JACKSONME24@ECU.EDU



LICENSING & COMMERCIALIZATION

ACCELERATING IDEAS TOWARD COMMERCIALIZATION

The Office of Licensing and Commercialization assists faculty, students and staff in exchanging ideas into real world solutions that can transform the region's economy and have a direct impact on individuals living in eastern North Carolina. Licensing and Commercialization accomplishes this mission by commercializing university-owned intellectual property (patents, copyright and trademarks), assisting in new venture development, enhancing research and industry collaboration, and providing educational programming to the community.



Over \$8.5M in revenue
from office activities
since inception



298 patents issued



1,100 faculty
innovations disclosed



Over 35 active ECU
faculty members in the
National Academy of
Inventors



CONTACT US



Dr. Carlyle Rogers

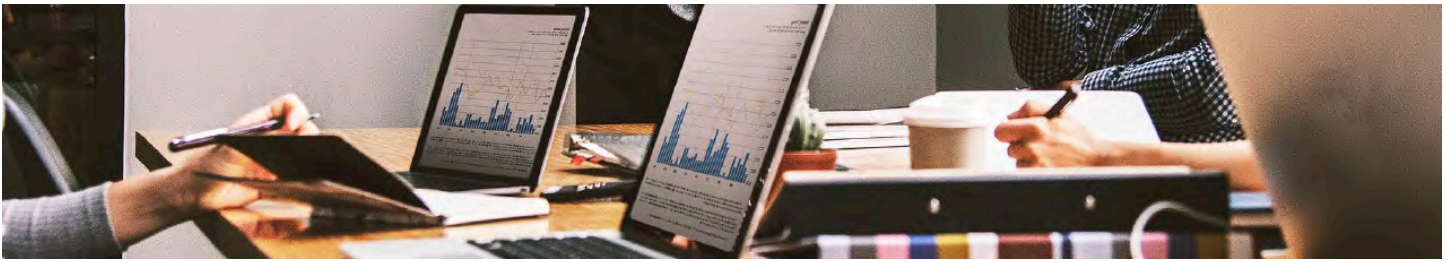
Director of Licensing and Commercialization

252-737-1648

ROGERSAR@ECU.EDU



LICENSING &
COMMERCIALIZATION



Core Functions

- Intellectual property protection, assessment, and management
- Patents, trademarks, and copyright
- Innovation scouting and assessment (patentability & marketability)
- Work with legal counsel and faculty on intellectual property legal actions
- Oversight of the ECU Patent Committee
- Federal compliance with the Bayh Dole Act
- Agreement review and execution
- License agreements, MTAs and CDAs
- New ventures and startups
- Work with faculty to develop viable startup opportunities and business models

Core Programs

Innovation Academy

The Innovation Academy helps faculty connect with industry partners to develop innovative solutions based on cutting-edge research that address real-world needs. By linking faculty with NC-based companies and global innovation platforms, the program fosters collaboration that accelerates commercialization, attracts extramural funding, and generates scholarly products. Each year, up to five teams are selected to undertake projects, with faculty receiving up to \$10,000 to cover expenses.

Digital Market

ECU's Digital Market began with the idea to better connect research-based solutions to those in need. ECU faculty inventors have developed an array of digital content in the form of apps, documents, videos and sounds, but have struggled to find a place for the content beyond publications and conferences. By placing content on the ECU's Digital Market, the visibility of the university's research enterprise is increased, royalties generated by the exchange are given back to the contributing faculty, and research-based solutions have an easy path to help those who need it.

Foundation of Innovations

Foundations of Innovation is a collection of self-paced training modules designed to allow faculty, staff and students explore the process of developing early-stage innovative ideas into potential new products or resources. Each module contains a short 20-30-minute video along with downloadable materials to facilitate the process of idea evaluation and assessment. Focus areas include biomedical, digital content, intellectual property protection and general business/service development.

Innovation Ambassador Program

This program is a 5 hr/week paid internship (\$2,000/semester) that trains graduate students in a STEM discipline on the translational interplay between research and commercialization. Ambassadors are exposed to a variety of research endeavors; learn core principles of the commercialization process; understand the importance of patents, trademark and copyright; and have opportunities to network with external business development partners.

Catalyst Commercialization Grant Assistance

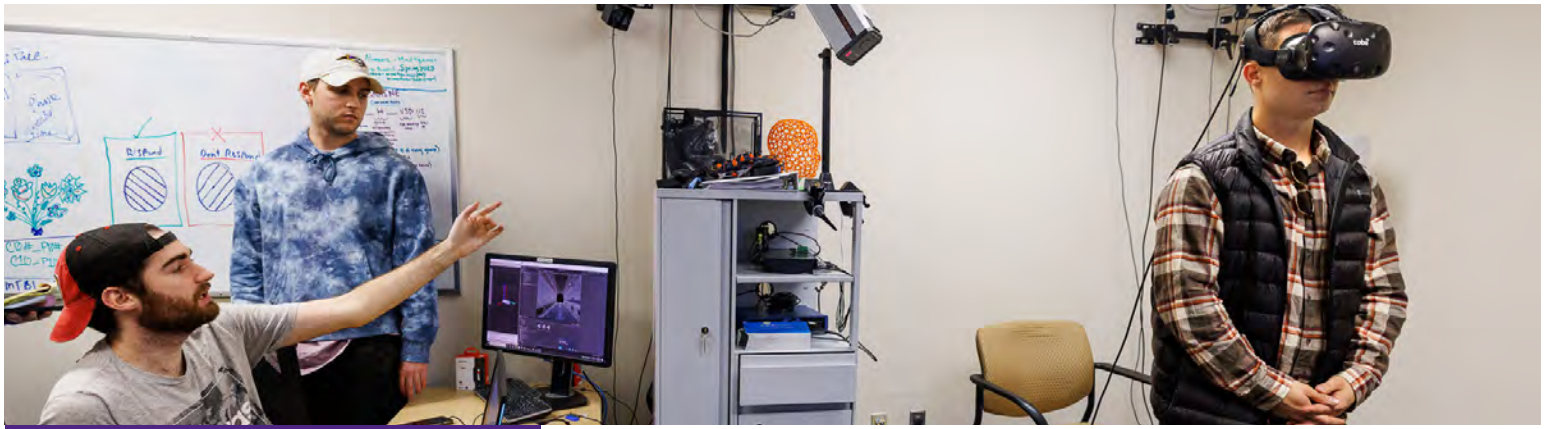
The Catalyst Commercialization Grant Assistance Program aims to accelerate the submission of commercialization related grants. The process begins with a thorough review of the commercial viability of your idea, followed by receiving feedback from industry stakeholders. Projects that receive favorable review will advance forward, and a commercialization proposal will be developed to advance the innovation towards licensing.

Mentorship Network

Our office has an extensive network of mentors that can help advance your innovation. Expertise includes but is not limited to: business development, investment, insurance reimbursement, drug development, rare and orphan diseases, software engineering, product placement, branding, intellectual property protection, website development, prototyping, agriculture, app development, education, and SBIR/STTR grant writing.

Find more info at REDE.ECU.EDU/INNOVATION





26 active DoD awards



Record \$2.8M in DoD-sponsored expenditures in FY24



Record \$6.2M in DoD-sponsored awards to date

OFFICE OF NATIONAL SECURITY & INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

The Office of National Security & Industry Initiatives (ONSII) operates within the Office of Innovation & Engagement and serves as a conduit through which researchers can connect with external stakeholders and align their interest with those of regional business and Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other federal partners. We create and strengthen ECU partnerships through regional engagement with industry, military, government, and economic/workforce developers to increase opportunities for students and faculty to provide value to partners and advance student success, public service and regional transformation.

CONNECTING RESEARCHERS WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS



FIND US ONLINE: [REDE.ECU.EDU/ONSII](https://rede.ecu.edu/onsii)



Jim Menke

Director of National Security Initiatives
MENKEJ@ECU.EDU

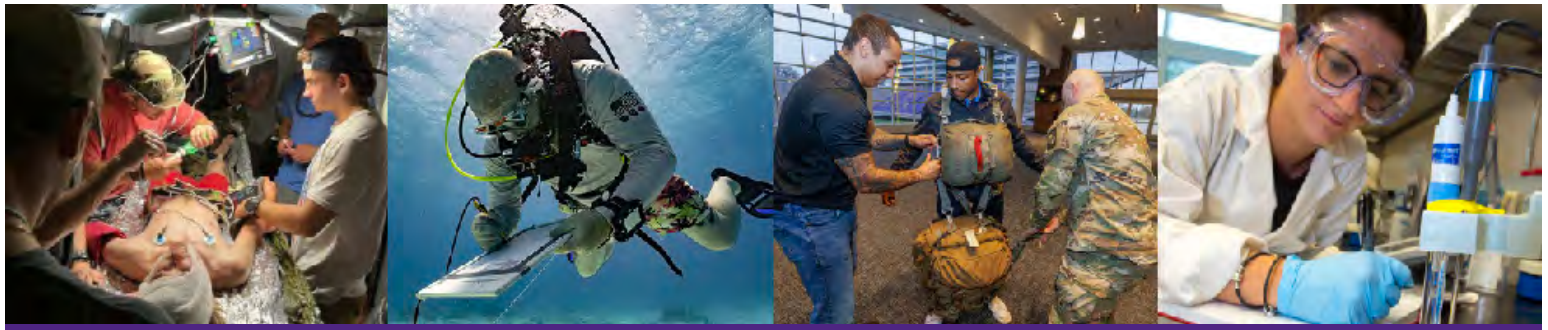


Keith Wheeler

Executive Director of National Security and Industry Initiatives
WHEELER18@ECU.EDU



NATIONAL SECURITY AND
INDUSTRY INITIATIVES



ONSII helps facilitate faculty connections with a broad network, including:

Military-Civilian Medical Partnerships

We're strengthening ECU and ECU Health relationships with Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune with an ultimate goal of training multidisciplinary medical personnel: physicians, nurses, EMTs and others. Military and civilian health providers will work together to enhance patient care through mutual training, sharing best practices and innovation.

Army XVIII Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division

Under the XVIII Airborne Corps - UNC System Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA), we work with 82nd Airborne Innovation Lab (AIL) and the Civil-Military Innovation Institute (CMI2) on specific project requests as well as providing broad research and innovation expertise as needed.

Institute for Defense and Business LOGTEC Partnership

The Institute for Defense and Business (IDB) and ECU have entered a strategic alliance aimed at fostering innovation, research and executive education programs and projects. The first project includes providing The Center of Excellence in Logistics and Technology (LOGTECH) education programs to senior military personnel and Industry executives. LOGTECH is a joint collaborative venture designed to support the educational requirements and objectives of the U.S. Department of Defense and various private industries.

National Security Agency (NSA)

An EPA and Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) are in place, enabling development of capstone projects with technology systems and computer science teams, subject matter expert presentations to faculty and students, and creation of a High-Performance Computing (HPC) concentration.

Each year, the NSA Laboratory for Analytic Sciences (LAS) brings together collaborators from three sectors - industry, academia and government - to conduct research that has a direct impact on national security. The LAS is always looking for partners to explore cutting-edge research projects.

ENC Aerospace Sector

Significant regional growth is forecast in this sector due to the military and civilian expansion in maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) operations. We can help you collaborate with partners like Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East) - Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Aviation Logistics Center (ALC) - USCG Station Elizabeth City, 4th Fighter Wing - Seymour Johnson AFB, NC Global TransPark (GTP) - Kinston, flyexclusive, Draken International, Spirit Aerosystems and the ENC NavalX Tech Bridge.

ENC Food Commercialization Center (ENCFCC)

The ENCFCC groundbreaking was in November 2022. The purpose of the center, located in Ayden, is to help growers and food entrepreneurs improve their access to the food commercialization sector. Once the facility becomes operational, we believe there are potential ECU connections to include nutrition, food science, marketing, packaging, entrepreneurship, processing innovation, and supply chain analytics.

ENC Pharma Manufacturing Sector

Eastern Region Pharma Center (ERPC) acts as the hub within the BioPharma Crescent connecting ECU, five community colleges, and over a dozen pharma companies in eastern North Carolina. It is committed to:

- Increasing pharma awareness and workforce preparedness of rural counties' young talent in ENC
- Increasing the numbers, opportunities, capabilities, and productivity of AAS and BS degree graduates
- Increasing ECU's readiness to re-skill, up-skill, and new-skill incumbent employees of our pharma manufacturer

We can help you collaborate with partners like Thermo Fisher Scientific, Catalent, CMP Pharma, Novo Nordisk, Grifols, Pfizer, Merck, Frenius Kabi, Novartis, the NC Biotechnology Center, and the BioPharma Crescent.

Minerva Research Initiative

The Minerva Research Initiative supports social science research aimed at improving our basic understanding of security, broadly defined. All supported projects are university-based and unclassified and the goal is to improve DoD's basic understanding of the social, cultural, behavioral, and political forces that shape the world.

Find more info at REDE.ECU.EDU/ONSII





SECU PUBLIC FELLOWS INTERNSHIP

Looking for a dynamic summer internship opportunity that gives you a chance to positively impact eastern North Carolina? The State Employees Credit Union Public Fellows Internship Program may be the perfect fit for you! Get paid to build connections with community leaders, receive business etiquette and leadership training, and work on a project that develops skills for your career while advancing ECU's mission to serve others through partnership.

BUILDING TALENT, FORGING PARTNERSHIPS



Internship participants receive a paid stipend up to **\$4,600**



Work in **eastern North Carolina** communities



Develop network relationships with local leaders



Learn professional etiquette and leadership skills



CONNECT WITH US: [GO.ECU.EDU/PFI](https://go.ecu.edu/pfi)



Cassie Keel
SECU PFI Program Manager
KEELC15@ECU.EDU



OFFICE OF
ENGAGED RESEARCH



Taking classes and getting good grades aren't enough anymore. **Employers want someone who is well-rounded and has experience.** Why not spend your summer in a great community that allows you to **prepare for your career? Don't let these opportunities pass you by.**

Alex Murphy | PFI Intern, Pocosin Arts Center

PFI MISSION

The SECU Public Fellows Internship Program focuses on strengthening eastern North Carolina communities by bringing in talented, skilled students to work in professional internships. The program is unique in its mission to combine a traditional internship experience with a community engaged mission, partnering students with leaders in local government, nonprofits and private businesses to solve local problems.

WHY CHOOSE PFI?

The benefits of the SECU Public Fellows Internship Program go beyond the paid \$4,600 stipend for interns. Students may be tasked with exploring community and economic development, grant writing, or project implementation, strengthening core competencies gained through academic programs and experiential learning. The program also includes professional and leadership development components, specifically workshops on communication, business etiquette, networking and professional practice.

ELIGIBILITY

The SECU Public Fellows Internship Program is open to ECU undergraduate students who meet the following requirements:

- **North Carolina resident**
- **Good academic standing**
- **Undergraduate status, sophomore or above**
- **Not graduating before end of internship**

Applicants will be selected by a team from the Office of Engaged Research and additional faculty representatives.

Applications available at [GO.ECU.EDU/PFI](https://go.ecu.edu/pfi)



54 new businesses created



481 local jobs created or retained



Over \$24.5M in funding raised for new or growing businesses



Increased sales by an average of \$98,788 for each client served

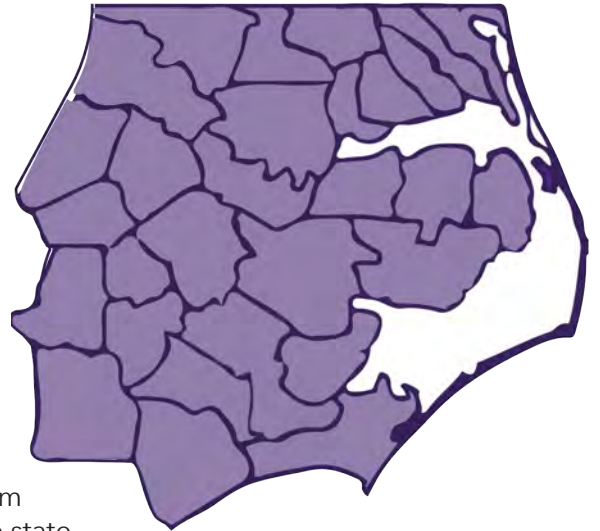
Data from 2024

SMALL BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT ECU

East Carolina University's® Small Business Technology & Development Center (SBTDC) offers no-cost business consulting to local start-ups, small and mid-size businesses throughout eastern North Carolina. Our team of experienced business consultants provides confidential one-on-one support to help grow new and existing businesses.

ECU SBTDC CONSULTANTS SERVE THESE COUNTIES:

- Beaufort
- Carteret
- Craven
- Edgecombe
- Greene
- Jones
- Lenoir
- Martin
- Pamlico
- Pitt
- Wayne
- Wilson



Additional SBTDC offices are located on UNC system campuses throughout the state.

CONTACT US: [SBTDC.ORG/OFFICES/ECU](https://www.sbtdc.org/offices/ecu)



Rob Bower

Director of the Small Business and Technology Development Center at ECU
BOWERR22@ECU.EDU
252-737-1385



HOW SBTDC SERVICES CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS:



FOR EXISTING BUSINESSES

- Access to market research resources
- Business plan assistance
- Income and cash flow projections
- Loan proposal preparation
- Accounting and financial management assistance
- Cash flow analysis
- Strategic Planning
- Data management assistance
- Marketing assistance
- Human resource planning
- Succession planning
- Business continuity planning
- Social media marketing

FOR START-UPS

- Understanding credit requirements and lending expectations
- Access to market research resources
- Market feasibility analysis
- Break-even and financial feasibility
- Business plan assistance
- Income and cash flow projections assistance
- Loan proposal preparation
- Business entity selection
- Research on local, state, and federal regulatory requirements
- Marketing assistance
- Human resource planning

Contact us for an appointment:

300 E. 1st Street, Willis Building, Greenville, NC 27858 | ecu@sbtcd.org | 252-737-1385



Find more info at sbtcd.org/offices/ecu



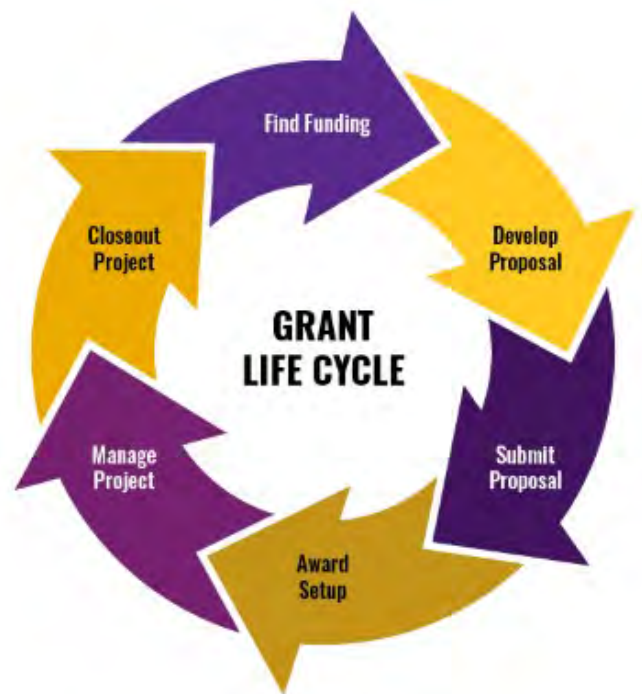


Research Administration

PROVIDING VITAL SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT FOR INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY EFFORTS

The Office of Research, led by the Chief Research Officer, fosters collaboration across university programs, assets, and resources. We also work closely with UNC-designated centers and institutes to support and enhance research efforts across our campuses and facilities.

Research Administration plays a vital role in overseeing and supporting the University's research enterprise. We provide comprehensive assistance with **grant administration**, ensuring research projects are funded and managed in accordance with the highest standards. Additionally, we are committed to promoting **ethical practices** in all research endeavors and ensuring compliance with **federal, state, and university regulations**.



EXPERT SERVICES

- Pre-Award Services
- Post-Award Services
- Research Integrity & Compliance
- Compliance Monitoring
- Research Administration Analytics
- Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
- University Medical & Behavioral
- Institutional Review Board

QUESTIONS? Contact Us:
Office of Research Administration
209 E. 5th Street | Mail Stop 211
ORA@ECU.EDU | 252-328-9530



The Office of Research Administration is the primary contact and the official university signatory for all proposals, awards, financial reports and financial correspondence related to sponsored projects. We are here for consultation on matters throughout your funding process or research project.

Pre-Award Services

Our centralized Pre-Award Services team supports faculty and staff in securing externally funded research, scholarly activities, and sponsored programs. Their work spans from pre-submission proposal development and review to award negotiation and acceptance. The team ensures proposals meet funding requirements and provides ongoing support throughout the project, including agreement negotiation, award processing, and other related actions. Their comprehensive services streamline the funding process and contribute to successful project outcomes.

Post-Award Services

The Post-Award Team in the Office of Research and Administration is comprised of three units: Grants and Contracts Administration, Billing and Revenue, and Award Setup. As experts in financial management for sponsored programs, the team establishes project FOAPs and works with PIs, Departmental Research Administrators, and Hub personnel to ensure effective financial oversight. They prepare financial reports for sponsors and ensure timely, accurate project closeout. The three teams collaborate closely to ensure compliance with sponsor, University, and auditor requirements.

University Medical & Behavioral Institutional Review Board (UMCIRB)

The primary role of the UMCIRB is to protect the rights and welfare of human participants in research at ECU, ECU Health, and its affiliates, as well as in research conducted by faculty, students, staff, or other university representatives. This mission is supported through a commitment to education and fostering collaborative relationships with researchers and key support staff.

Research Integrity & Compliance

Research Integrity and Compliance provides leadership on conflicts of interest, export controls, responsible conduct of research, and research misconduct allegations. They ensure compliance with federal, state, and institutional regulations, while developing tools and educational resources to support the ECU community. The team actively monitors the evolving research compliance landscape and adjust to new regulatory requirements.

Institutional Care & Use Committee (IACUC)

IACUC oversees the care and use of vertebrate animals and cephalopods in research, education, and other scholarly activities. The Committee supports compliance by assisting faculty, staff, and students in the ethical care and use of animals. Everyone involved in animal use is responsible for ensuring their welfare within the University's programs. Those who utilize animals are both morally and legally obligated to care for them properly and humanely, setting a standard through action and example.

Research Administration Analytics

The analytics team supports award management by maintaining systems for proposal submission, cost accounting, financial reporting, and data analysis. They handle hardware and software requests for office staff, troubleshoot eTRACS report and dashboard development, and manage research data requests for efficient access and accurate data management across projects.

Submit a ticket for support at:
go.ecu.edu/etracssupport

REDE.ECU.EDU/ORA





OFFICE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT



537 research proposals



\$254.2M research proposals total



130 interdisciplinary proposals



\$83.8 in sponsored awards

ECU's Office of Research Development plays a crucial role in advancing the university's research success. We provide faculty with the support they need at every stage of their research, from identifying funding opportunities to finalizing proposals. By offering a range of resources, tools, and collaboration opportunities, our office empowers researchers to develop competitive proposals, secure funding, and achieve their research goals.

Our office offers expert guidance to help faculty navigate the competitive world of extramural funding. We organize networking events, workshops, and training sessions designed to strengthen grant applications and improve researchers' chances of success.

We also ensure faculty stay informed about available grants, keeping up-to-date with funding trends and priorities. This enables us to help researchers align their projects with the most appropriate financial support.

In addition to external funding, we offer internal funding programs to fuel innovative research. These include seed grants, reassignment awards, and startup support, which assist researchers in launching new projects, generating preliminary data, and building the foundation for larger studies.

FIND US ONLINE: [REDE.ECU.EDU/RESEARCHDEVELOPMENT](https://rede.ecu.edu/researchdevelopment)



Dr. Mary Farwell
Assistant Vice Chancellor for
Research Development
FARWELLM@ECU.EDU

Research Development Programs & Initiatives

Trendsetters Awards for Research and Creative Activity

The Trendsetter Awards were established in 2022 to celebrate outstanding ECU faculty at all career stages who are making a lasting impact. With three award categories—Early Career, Mid-Career, and Eminent—this prestigious recognition honors those who are making strides in their contributions to education, research, and innovation. All faculty (including clinical) with at least two years of service at ECU, regardless of tenure status, department, school and/or college and field of study are welcome to submit their nomination application.

SPARC Program

The Sponsored Activities and Research Catalyst Program (SPARC) is designed to support scholarly activities that lead to the development and submission of competitive extramural proposals. This program provides seed funding of up to \$10,000 to enhance proposal development and strengthen research initiatives. Each cycle, up to ten projects will be selected, with funding available for supplies, travel, participant incentives, student assistance, and other project-related expenses. Additionally, each project team may allocate up to \$4,000 for reassigned time and/or summer salary for up to two faculty members. SPARC participants will also have the opportunity to engage in professional development experiences.

STEM@Starlight

STEM@Starlight is a dynamic regional intellectual exchange group that brings together ECU faculty, staff, students, and the public to foster collaboration and innovation in biotechnology. Supported by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, this initiative provides a platform for discussions about cutting-edge research and networking opportunities that bridge research scientists, engineers, clinicians, and private industry. Each quarter, events will feature engaging presentations from leading researchers on topics that drive scientific progress and industry advancements.

Lunch-and-Learn Series

The Office of Research Development recently launched a lunch-and-learn series, where participants will gain valuable insights from experts on topics ranging from research information and updates to professional development tips. This is a fantastic opportunity to expand skills, network with colleagues, and engage in meaningful discussions—all in a relaxed, collaborative setting.

MORE Program

The Mid-Career Opportunities for Research Expansion (MORE) program is designed for faculty looking to collaborate, innovate, and expand their research impact through interdisciplinary projects. This program brings together mid-career faculty to form writing groups, develop competitive proposals, and forge new research connections across disciplines. The program is open to mid-career faculty eager to join. Eligible participants include those who have achieved tenure/associate status and plan to remain active in their careers for at least the next five years.

Postdoctoral Affairs

ECU Postdoctoral Affairs is here to help postdoctoral students develop professional skills in preparation for their chosen career path. Previous postdoctoral scholars have worked on breakthroughs in cancer research, diabetes, management, and women's health. Furthermore, our scholars have positions in the academy (liberal arts college, R1 and R2 universities), private sectors (such as pharmaceutical companies), and government agencies. Postdoctoral Affairs helps to improve, support, and promote postdoctoral training and preparation for successful careers.



Find more info at REDE.ECU.EDU/RESEARCHDEVELOPMENT



96% of ECU undergraduate researchers said **research contributed to their personal and professional growth**



ECU provides an average of **\$103,176 in faculty-mentored research support annually**



Hundreds of student presenters contribute to ECU's annual Research and Creative Activity Week



68% of students nationally said their **interest in STEM fields** increased after participating in undergraduate research

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

At East Carolina University®, undergraduate students are participating in cutting-edge research that empowers them to take what they've learned in the classroom into the real world. Our undergraduate researchers have led projects that quantify the impact social media sites have on education; create better meal and exercise plans for elementary school students; and improve pharmaceutical therapies for neurodegenerative diseases. By participating in undergraduate research programs at ECU, our students contribute knowledge and innovation to their fields of study. Learn more about the resources ECU provides its undergraduate researchers.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH RESEARCH



CONTACT US: [REDE.ECU.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE](https://rede.ecu.edu/undergraduate)



Tuan Tran
Director of Undergraduate Research
TRANT@ECU.EDU



ECU

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



// Research has given me the opportunity to not only take my education to the next level, but develop ways to help other people. //

Sarah Bammel

University Studies Major with mentor
Dr. Erika Johnson (right), School of Communication



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDING

ECU provides numerous funding opportunities for undergraduate researchers. Our Office of Undergraduate Research provides support for faculty-mentored projects through its Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Awards, offering up to \$2,000 for selected projects in the biomedical sciences, STEM, social sciences, and arts and humanities fields. Additionally, the office provides Conference Awards that aid student presentations at conferences across the country. These funds offset the debt our undergraduates incur while providing vital opportunities to conduct novel research.



ENGAGED RESEARCH & INTERNSHIPS

Undergraduates have the opportunity to put their creativity to use in real-world settings with ECU's engaged research and internship opportunities. The university partners with community and industry leaders in arts, culture, history, biomedical sciences, biology, business and engineering, among others, offering projects that solve needs for clients and environments. Additionally, our undergraduate researchers have developed ecological sanctuaries, programs for at-risk teens, have interned at leading pharmaceutical companies, wildlife refuges, Fortune 500 companies, and media giants. Our undergraduate research resources put students in a position to excel in major industries with authentic experiences with the companies they'll one day work for and help lead ECU in regional transformation.



RESEARCH EVENTS

Along with providing funding and opportunities to conduct research, ECU highlights its undergraduate researchers at events on campus and across the state. The university hosts Research and Creative Achievement Week, an annual week-long celebration that offers student researchers an opportunity to practice their presentation skills and meet scholars with similar interests. ECU also hosts the Capture 180 Research Challenge, asking undergraduates to share their research in three-minute presentations. Finally, ECU supports its undergraduates with an annual trip to the State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. The event brings researchers from across the state together to share their work through posters, presentations, performances and works of art.

Find more info at rede.ecu.edu/undergraduate



NCInnovation

Unlocking Research, Fueling Innovation:
Bridging Academia to Industry

Mission & Approach

NCInnovation unlocks the innovative potential of North Carolina's world-class universities to move inventions to market and create long-term economic benefits for all regions of the state. We do this by supporting researchers with grant funding, mentorship, and partnership development to commercialize applied research breakthroughs and accelerate the transition from academia to industry.

Commercializing University Research

Grant Funding for Research Commercialization	NCInnovation provides non-dilutive grants to university researchers to support maturing a research project from proof of concept to commercial viability.	
Support Services for Research Commercialization	NCInnovation supports university researchers with funding for business plan development, industry advising and mentorship, IP support, and technology road mapping. NCInnovation provides ongoing coordination between universities and the private sector to facilitate successful transitions from academia to industry.	
Eligibility for NCInnovation Funding & Support	NCInnovation grants and support are available to researchers at North Carolina universities. In general, NCInnovation will support research after proof of concept has been established but before commercial-readiness—the R&D phase known as the “valley of death.”	

Connect with NCInnovation

Learn more about NCInnovation and stay up to date on grant information:



-  Reach out to Eastern Director, **Derrick Welch** at dwelch@ncinnovation.org
-  Visit ncinnovation.org and sign up for NCInnovation's newsletter
-  Follow NCI on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/ncinnovation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ncinnovation)

ON THE TOUR: TARBORO

Established in 1760, Tarboro, NC is one of the state's oldest towns, rich in history and Southern charm. Originally inhabited by the Tuscarora Indians, the town's name derives from the Tuscarora word "taw," meaning "river of health." In 1760, the North Carolina General Assembly chartered "Tarborough," laying out 109 lots and a 50-acre "town common" for public use. By 1764, Tarboro became the county seat of Edgecombe County. In the 19th century, Tarboro thrived as a river port, serving as a major trade center for goods from the frontier. The town's historic district, recognized by the National Park Service in 1977, spans 45 blocks and includes more than 300 structures, along with the town common and much of downtown.



For visitors, Tarboro offers a variety of attractions. The historic district features beautifully preserved antebellum architecture, including the Blount-Bridgers House, built in 1808, which serves as a museum and art center. The Tarboro Town Common, a 15-acre park, provides areas for picnics and leisurely walks. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the Tarboro Riverwalk, a scenic path along the Tar River, ideal for walking, jogging, or cycling. The town hosts events like the Tarboro Ghost Walk, offering a glimpse into local legends and historic haunts. Whether you're exploring the town's rich history, enjoying its cultural offerings, or strolling its scenic parks, Tarboro provides a

welcoming and enriching experience for all.

On the **2025 Purple and Gold Bus Tour**, we will stop at Edgecombe Community College's Tarboro Campus, where we will tour the Center for Innovation, a building opened in 2023 to better prepare students for the workforce. The center features manufacturing labs and other simulations developed in collaboration with industries. We will also learn about the workforce needs in the area and hear from the county manager about economic development in Edgecombe County, including the potential construction of a new facility in the region and how this could bring new opportunities to the community.

Sources: tarboro-nc.com

Partnership with ECU



GREG MCLEOD
President
Edgecombe Community
College

"Edgecombe Community College's partnerships with and close proximity to East Carolina University are great benefits for our students and community. Collaborations such as the Pirate Promise Co-Admission Program, Eastern NC RIBN, Partnership Teach, and our growing number of AAS to BS Transfer Pathways provide ECC students with wonderful opportunities to gain a world-class education locally and affordably."

ON THE TOUR: PLYMOUTH

Established in 1787, Plymouth, NC serves as the county seat of Washington County. Situated on the Roanoke River, approximately seven miles upstream from its intersection with the Albemarle Sound, the town boasts a rich history and offers several attractions for visitors. Plymouth played a pivotal role during the American Civil War, notably as the site of the Battle of Plymouth in April 1864. This engagement was significant for the Confederate forces, marking their last major victory in North Carolina. The Confederate ironclad CSS Albemarle was instrumental in the battle, contributing to the Confederate success.



The Plymouth Historic District, encompassing approximately 122 acres, features a variety of architectural styles, including Colonial Revival, Bungalow/American Craftsman, and Late Victorian. Notable structures within the district include the Latham House (a Greek Revival-style home built around 1850), Perry-Spruill House (a Gothic Revival-style cottage constructed in the late 1800s), and the Washington County Courthouse. The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Tourist attractions include the Port O' Plymouth Museum: Housed in the former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad station, this museum offers a comprehensive collection of Civil War artifacts, including a model of the CSS Albemarle.

On the **2025 Purple and Gold Bus Tour**, we'll visit the Tidewater Research Station, where we will tour the facilities and learn more about their tomato breeding operations, swine research, and ongoing irrigation and environmental studies. We will also hear from several researchers, stakeholders, and community liaisons about the importance of the Tidewater Research facility to the area.

Sources: dn-cr.nc.gov, files.nc.gov

Possibilities for Partnership



TRACEY JOHNSON
County Commissioner
Washington County Government

"Washington County has long recognized the invaluable partnership with East Carolina University in supporting our community. The Universities providing of essential healthcare services, such as specialized heart care, surgical, and pediatric care, to enriching our local projects with the use of ECU students have been beneficial to all our residents. Washington County faces unique challenges as a rural low wealth County. We are tasked with delivering essential services comparable to those of larger wealthier counties, like Wake and Mecklenburg, but with fewer resources. For this reason, we continue to seek and embrace partnerships that can help these challenges and enhance our quality of life. ECU students have played an instrumental role in community projects such as recreation development, broadband surveys, and water quality assessments. These efforts have greatly benefited our residents, and we are eager to expand upon these partnerships in the future."

ON THE TOUR: WANCHESE

The village of Wanchese, NC is an unincorporated area located on the southern end of Roanoke Island in Dare County. As of the 2020 census, it had a population of 1,522 residents.

Archaeological evidence indicates that Wanchese was the site of the first fishing village on Roanoke Island. Indigenous peoples inhabited the area over 1,500 years ago, utilizing the site for fishing and shellfish collection. The Roanoke tribe, an Algonquian-speaking group, used the area seasonally for these purposes.

Today, Wanchese is a major fishing hub known for its commercial fishing and boatbuilding industries. The North Carolina Seafood Industrial Park sits at the village's southeastern point, and fresh catch often ends up on the specials menu at local Outer Banks restaurants.



Visitors to Roanoke Island only need to take a short drive from Wanchese to experience the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, Elizabethan Gardens, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Bodie Island Lighthouse. The Roanoke Island Festival Park, located nearby in Manteo, is a 27-acre historic site that allows guests to experience life as it was for the first English settlers in 1585. Historic costumed interpreters demonstrate how the settlers lived, worked, and played on Roanoke Island.

On the **2025 Purple and Gold Bus Tour**, we'll visit the Coastal Studies Institute (ECU's Outer Banks campus), where we will explore the facility and hear from tourism partners and residents about ecotourism, culture, and the preservation of the region. Afterward, we will take a windshield tour of the Wanchese Marine Industrial Park, where we will learn about the unique industries that support this coastal community. Following our time in Wanchese, we will head to Duck to dine with community partners and learn more about the Blue Zone initiative and how ECU Health is an integral part of the broader Blue Zone OBX effort.

Sources: roanokeisland.ncdcr.gov, outerbanks.org/plan-your-trip/towns-and-villages/wanchese/

Engaging with ECU



DANA THOMASON
Lead Special Activities Instructor
and Camp Coordinator
NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island

"The North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island is always thrilled to have the opportunity to build partnerships with other affiliations and organizations, and we were excited to gain a partnership with East Carolina University by hosting interns in our Education Department. Collaborating with East Carolina University gives us a chance to expose students to potential careers in marine science, environmental education, and other opportunities in a real-world setting. Interns through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program will help the Aquariums continue to share our mission to the public as well as help the students develop professional skills along the way through hands-on learning in coastal northeastern North Carolina."

ON THE TOUR: ELIZABETH CITY

Elizabeth City, NC, often referred to as the “Harbor of Hospitality,” is a city rich in history and culture, offering visitors a blend of historical sites, natural beauty, and maritime heritage. Established in the mid-18th century, Elizabeth City developed as a trading post at the narrows of the Pasquotank River. The construction of the Dismal Swamp Canal in 1793 significantly boosted its commerce, positioning the city as a vital port in the early 19th century.

During the American Civil War, Elizabeth City was a strategic location, experiencing Union occupation after the Battle of Roanoke Island. Post-war, the city continued to thrive, with industries such as shipbuilding, textiles, and aeronautics playing pivotal roles in its economic development.



The Museum of the Albemarle offers a comprehensive overview of the region’s history, featuring exhibits on the area’s cultural development, geography, and ecology over the past 10,000 years. Visitors can also explore the city’s rich history through self-guided walking tours, showcasing beautifully handcrafted Victorian architecture and sites that bring history to life.

The Elizabeth City Aviation Trail highlights the city’s aviation history, including the establishment of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in 1940, one of the largest in the country. Visitors can observe training exercises and view aircraft operations, offering a unique insight into the city’s

ongoing maritime and aviation heritage.

On the **2025 Purple and Gold Bus Tour**, we’ll stop at TCOM to explore their *Lighter-Than-Air Tethered Aerostat Platforms*, which provide real-time data to enhance situational awareness for military, law enforcement, and commercial use, ensuring access to critical information across a wide range of operations. We will also visit Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies, where we will explore their innovative approach to learning, which helps prepare students straight out of high school for college or the workforce.

Sources: visitelizabethcity.com

ECU’s Regional Significance



MAHMOUD AL-DAJANI

Director

Community Service Learning Center,
Elizabeth City

“Oral health is essential to general health and well-being. The Community Service Learning Center in Elizabeth City demonstrates the Dental School’s vision in improving the health and quality of life of all North Carolinians by creating leaders with a passion to care for the underserved.”

We are committed to offering comprehensive general dental services in a safe, caring and professional setting to all patients. We are proud to serve the medical and dental care needs of the entire region as an operational partner with the College of Albermarle, Eastern AHEC, and the Albermarle Hospital.”

ON THE TOUR: EDENTON

Edenton, NC, established in 1722, is one of the oldest towns in the state, playing a key role in both early American politics and commerce. Its charm is showcased through historic sites and landmarks that celebrate its rich heritage. Edenton was a crucial site during the American Revolution. Notably, in 1774, Penelope Barker organized the Edenton Tea Party, one of the first political actions by women in the American colonies, protesting British taxation.

One of the town's most iconic landmarks and attractions is the Roanoke River Lighthouse. Built in 1886, the lighthouse is a unique symbol of Edenton's maritime history. Today, it stands as a restored museum offering visitors a chance to explore the town's role in river navigation and commerce.



Visitors can also explore the heart of Edenton's historic charm with sites like the Barker House, the Chowan County Courthouse, and the Cupola House, all nestled within the picturesque downtown area. Many of these sites date back to the 18th century and provide a window into the

town's colonial and early American history.

On the **2025 Purple and Gold Bus Tour**, we'll stop at Daedalus Yachts, where we will learn about the green technology behind the creation of carbon yachts.

Sources: ncdcr.gov, visitedenton.com

Engaging with ECU and Possibilities for Partnership



CHES CHESSON
Executive Director,
Destination Downtown Edenton

"Our partnership with ECU is instrumental in building a stronger, more resilient economy in Chowan County and Northeastern NC. By developing a highly skilled workforce and fostering new opportunities, ECU plays a vital role in advancing economic development and ensuring long-term success for our communities."

"Partnering with ECU has opened new doors for Edenton and Chowan County, helping us recruit a leading IT services company and equipping our local businesses with the resources to innovate and thrive. Their influence continues to strengthen our economy, foster entrepreneurship, and ensure long-term success for our region."

ON THE TOUR: WILLIAMSTON

Situated along the Roanoke River, Williamston, NC was established in 1779 and serves as the county seat of Martin County.

Williamston's Historic District encompasses 368 contributing buildings and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors can enjoy a self-guided walking tour, starting at the Visitor's Center in the Asa Biggs House on Church Street, to explore the town's historic architecture. The Old Martin County Courthouse (circa 1885) and Skewarkey Primitive Baptist Church (established in 1853) are other notable buildings that highlight the town's architectural heritage.

Williamston has served as a center for agriculture and textile production. The town's location along the Roanoke River made it an ideal hub for shipping crops and goods. Today, Williamston's industrial base has expanded to include industries such as manufacturing and distribution. Local businesses are involved in sectors such as timber, pulp, and paper production.



The Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center opened in 1998 and is a state-of-the-art facility featuring a 108,000-square-foot indoor coliseum with permanent seating for 2,400 people. It hosts various events, including equestrian competitions, rodeos, and tractor pulls.

On the **2025 Purple and Gold Bus Tour**, we'll stop at Agape Health Services, where we will learn about federally qualified health centers, the services available to the community, and how they are helping address issues with access to health care for those in the region they serve.

Sources: townofwilliamston.com

Engaging with ECU and Possibilities for Partnership

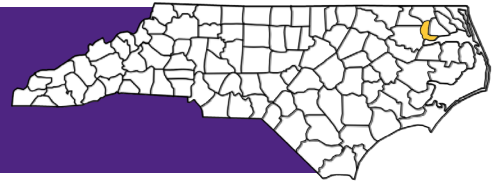


CHASE CONNER
Tourism Director
Explore Martin County

Engaging with ECU has been invaluable in fostering community connections and driving local impact. Through collaboration with multiple classes and programs focused on outreach and support, we've strengthened opportunities that align with Martin County's tourism and economic development goals. This partnership continues to be a catalyst for meaningful growth and allows students to see what rural community development looks like.

As a community partner with ECU, we see tremendous opportunities to collaborate on projects that might otherwise be out of reach for a rural community like Martin County. With limited resources, partnerships provide new avenues to explore initiatives that drive meaningful progress. By working together, we can leverage ECU's expertise and student engagement to bring fresh ideas, research, and support to our local goals, creating long-term benefits for our community.

CHOWAN COUNTY SPEAKERS

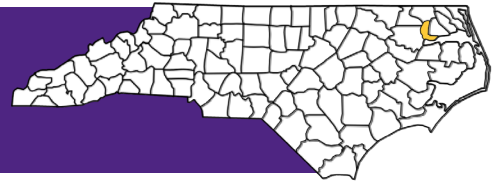


Darryl Adachi
Business Manager
Daedalus Yachts

Darryl Adachi has been with Daedalus Yachts LLC since March of 2021. He boasts no deep background or experience in the boatbuilding industry but was approached by Michael Reardon, CEO of Daedalus Yachts, to be his Business Manager for the company. As such, he is responsible for a wide range of activities, including acting as a gatekeeper for the flow of multi-platform communications to and from the office of the CEO, acting as an advisor and thought partner to the CEO, and collaborating with other members of the company's management team on determining and prioritizing business strategies. His everyday responsibilities incorporate, among others, (a) preparing, reviewing and advising on business agreements and proposals, including manufacturing agreements, business partnership proposals, government grant proposals, and confidentiality agreements; (b) working with the CEO in developing and instituting business plans; and (c) working with other management staff on business presentations covering the company's capabilities and service offerings.

Adachi was born and raised in Honolulu, upon obtaining his MBA from the University of Notre Dame, Adachi was hired by Crocker National Bank. He spent several years in the financial industry overseeing clients in Japan and many other areas before moving to London working with international and investment banks. Adachi chose to move to Edenton where he continued to work with David Barrett Partners until making the decision to take early retirement. Michael Reardon approached him to be his Business Manager, Adachi decided to re-enter the market, working for the very first time in the manufacturing industry. Years later, he continues to enjoy his experience in the field while learning new things about the industry every day.

CHOWAN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Jonas Hertwig
Vice President and Director of Design
Daedalus Yachts

Jonas Hertwig, born and raised in Cologne Germany, is Vice President and Director of Design at Daedalus Yachts LLC working out of the design studio based at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Hertwig has served in his current position since 2017, having come to Daedalus from Yacht Design Collective, a Paris-based design studio that he founded in 2015. Hertwig works closely with Michael Reardon, CEO of Daedalus Yachts and with potential clients, build partners, design engineers, and naval architects, collaborating with them in the design and engineering of the company's line of yachts.

His experience in the marine industry was borne out of his interest in yacht design that he pursued during his university years. In 2011, he completed his Bachelor of Design studies at the Design Academy Eindhoven in Eindhoven, Netherlands. Hertwig followed up his studies at Eindhoven at Politecnico di Milano in Milan, Italy where he achieved a Master in Yacht Design in 2015. Together with Politecnico, POLI.design is the highly regarded postgraduate school of design that aims at professional training in the many areas of work in which the designer operates today. Hertwig's curriculum at POLI.design amply prepared him for the demands inherent in the yacht market, particularly as it pertained to yacht design.



Michael Reardon
Co-Founder
Daedalus Yachts

Michael Reardon has crafted award-winning, future-focused carbon boats for over 35 years. Born and raised Australia, Reardon began his career at McConaghy Yachts in 1984 and was part of the build team for Abracadabra, Champosa, Fujimo and Amazon. In 1990, he moved to the United States with Irwin Yachts and began building yachts 35 to 80 feet in length, as well as USCG-certified charter yachts. Later, as Vice President of Challenger Offshore, Reardon built serial high-performance powerboats and positioned the company to go public with Xtreme Marine in 2004.

He then moved to Slovenia, where as a Director at Seaway Group, he was responsible for the production, purchasing, sales and marketing associated with the company and launched the brand into the carbon fiber luxury yachts market. Reardon was able to deliver customized composite components to his clients while remaining at the forefront of composite research and development.

In 2016, along with business partner Stefan Muff, Reardon established Daedalus Composites in Edenton, North Carolina and its sister company, Daedalus Yachts, in 2018. Daedalus Composites/Daedalus Yachts are privately held design, engineering and manufacturing companies that specialize in thermo-formed carbon composite technology.

DARE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Bob Peele
Director, Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park
Wanchese Marine Industrial Park

Robert "Bob" Peele earned his bachelor's in political science from NC State University, has served on the staffs of US Representative Walter Jones Sr and US Representative H. Martin Lancaster, and was the assistant director of the North Carolina Fisheries Association in New Bern in 1994. Peele was the coordinator for the Oregon Inlet Jetty Project and acting director of the Wanchese Park from 1998-2000. Since 2001, Peele has overseen operations at the Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park a 60-acre site that opened in 1981. Just before the Bear Grass native started there, it had expanded to embrace all marine-related ventures, not just seafood businesses. Currently all 20 lots are fully leased to marine business to include boat building, commercial fishing, marina and supply chain operations.



Michael Basnight
Commissioner
Town of Manteo

Michael Basnight is a Manteo Native and ECU graduate with a degree in industrial technology. Basnight started his career with Abbot Laboratories in the Pharmaceutical division before moving into field-based sales in San Diego, California. After his time at Abbot, Basnight worked with St. Judge Medical as a cardiac medical device distributor and finished up his time there as Global Director responsible for clinical, technical and sales training education across the Cardiac Rhythm Management and Electrophysiology divisions. To remain in the US, Basnight took a contract buyout and began consulting for various corporate entities under Basnight Holdings LLC. He has since transitioned back to Manteo and is currently the owner and managing partner of the Pioneer Theatre, owner of the Manteo House, distributor for Lithic Industries, and a Commissioner for Manteo. Basnight's roots in Manteo run deep, with relatives dating back to the 1600s. His work and charitable efforts reflect his ongoing passion for the community.



Reide Corbett
Executive Director, Coastal Studies Institute
Dean, Integrated Coastal Programs

Reide Corbett was born and raised in coastal North Carolina. After receiving his PhD in oceanography from Florida State University and spending a short time at Tulane University in New Orleans, he returned to North Carolina to join the faculty at ECU. He is now the Dean of Integrated Coastal Programs, the executive director of the Coastal Studies Institute, and a professor in the Department of Coastal Studies at ECU. Corbett is a coastal oceanographer and geochemist with an overall scientific interest in the geochemical and geomorphic dynamics of coastal and open ocean environments. Much of his research during the last two decades has focused on the delivery of constituents by submarine groundwater discharge and sediment dynamics across the continental margin. Corbett's research has broadened through the years to include coastal change and geomorphic evolution across telescoping timescales.

DARE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Meaghan Johnson
Chief of Resource Management and Science
Outer Banks Group Parks

Meaghan Johnson is the Chief of Resource Management and Science for the Outer Banks Group parks, which includes Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial. Johnson manages a diverse group of natural and cultural resources including nesting shorebirds, sea turtles, invasive plants, historic structures, shipwrecks, and archeological resources in a dynamic coastal environment. She oversees complex resource challenges with shoreline erosion, threatened oceanfront structures and associated debris, water quality, and groundwater and soil contamination. Johnson's background is in restoration of marine ecosystems and coastal zone management.



John McCord
Associate Director for Education, Outreach & Communication
Coastal Studies Institute

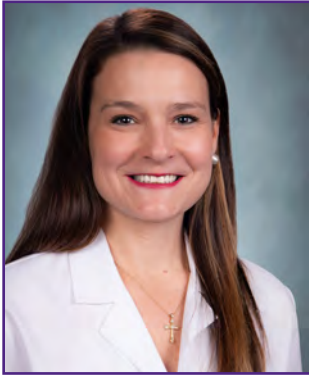
John McCord is the associate director of engagement and outreach at the Coastal Studies Institute. McCord earned his BS in natural resource management from UNC Wilmington. McCord joined the Coastal Studies Institute in 2005 and is responsible for communicating the research and activities of the Coastal Studies Institute and ECU Integrated Coastal Programs to a variety of audiences including local government officials, university faculty, teachers, K-12 students, life-long learners and the public. McCord fulfills this mission through a variety of education and outreach methods including workshops, educational programming, publications, press coverage, multi-media development and web-based learning.



Jeff Schwartzberg
Community Engagement Manager
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau

Jeff Schwartzberg joined the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau in the newly created role of Community Engagement Manager in August 2023. With more than two decades of marketing, communications and strategic partnership experience, Schwartzberg is charged with helping put the strategies of the Outer Banks Long-Range Tourism Management Plan (LRTMP) into practice within the Outer Banks community. The plan serves as a road map for responsible and sustainable tourism on the Outer Banks. Schwartzberg is responsible for developing and coordinating partner engagement programs, collaborating with local non-profit organizations, enhancing partnerships within the community and implementing the initiatives of the LRTMP with a focus on strengthening relations between visitors, the tourism industry and residents. A 1996 graduate of Binghamton University's School of Management, Schwartzberg has served in various professional capacities for Currituck Travel & Tourism, Kitty Hawk Kites, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville Predators Hockey Club (NHL), Vanderbilt University and Travelocity, after beginning his career with the New York Rangers Hockey Club (NHL).

DARE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Christina Bowen
Chief Well-Being Officer, ECU Health
Medical Director, Outer Banks Health Center for Healthy Living

Christina Bowen, MD, has been practicing as a family medicine physician in her community for over 10 years. She began her leadership experience as Chief Resident at Carolinas Medical Center for the family medicine residency. Dr. Bowen was asked to continue in Charlotte and serve as a faculty member for the family medicine residency after completion of her training. Dr. Bowen moved back to eastern North Carolina to serve the rural communities in which she grew up. While living in eastern North Carolina she has practiced integrative primary care with a focus on her patient's emotional well-being and the impact on their physical diagnoses. Dr. Bowen has also served her community over the last ten years as the medical director for the Dare County Department of Public Health where she is engaged in public health initiatives for her rural community. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health recognized Dr. Bowen as the first North Carolina recipient of their Community Star Award in 2020 for her work in Dare County. Dr. Bowen accepted the position of ECU Health's first Chief Well-being Officer in January of 2022. Reporting to Chief Experience Office, Dr. Julie Kennedy Oehlert, Dr. Bowen champions well-being efforts through the lens of team member and provider engagement and equity. In this role, Dr. Bowen is responsible for developing, guiding and implementing team member and provider well-being and resilience initiatives founded on evidence-based best practices and organizational data. In addition, she leads ECU Health's wellness teams to introduce and support new programs that positively influence the population health of the communities of eastern North Carolina.



Sheila Davies
Director and Public Health Director
Dare County Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Sheila Davies is the Director of the Dare County Department of Health and Human Services and the Public Health Director. She oversees the county's public health, social services, veterans' services and Manteo Youth Center. Dr. Davies is also an Adjunct Faculty member with the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill teaching in the Gillings School of Global Public Health. Prior to her role with Dare County, she served as the Coordinator the North Carolina Statewide Telepsychiatry Program. Dr. Davies received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Psychology from the College of William and Mary. She received a masters degree and PhD in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University. Dr. Davies was elected as the Mayor of the Town of Kill Devil Hills in 2011 and served 4 terms through December 2019. She serves on numerous Board of Directors including the Outer Banks Dementia Friendly Coalition, Easterseals UCP/PORT Health, Dare County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and the Community Care Clinic of Dare.

DARE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Amy Montgomery
Senior Administrator of Operations
Outer Banks Health

Amy H. Montgomery joined the Outer Banks Hospital in 2011 as Director of Community Outreach and made a significant impact on the hospital's engagement in the community during the four years she served in this role. In 2015, Montgomery was named as the Outer Banks Hospital's Senior Administrator of Operations. In her current role, Montgomery provides operational leadership for hospital-based outpatient services including Cancer Services, Radiology, Laboratory, Rehabilitation Services, and Cardiac Rehab. Montgomery's leadership also spans Patient Business Services, Food and Nutrition Services, Marketing and Community Outreach and Development.

Montgomery is an established leader in our community. As Health Education Supervisor for the Dare County Department of Public Health from 2001-2004, Montgomery started the Miles of Smiles Mobile Dental Unit and the Peer Power Program. She also led the first Community Health Assessment for Dare County and the development of Healthy Carolinians of the Outer Banks. Montgomery was also a key member of the committee that started the Outer Banks Marathon and Outer Banks Sporting Events, as part of her seven-year tenure as the Executive Director of the Dare Education Foundation from 2004-2011.

Montgomery holds a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics and a Master's Degree in Health Education from East Carolina University. Montgomery is also a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Chris Sawin
Community Foundation President
Outer Banks Community Foundation

Community Foundation President and CEO Chris Sawin grew up in Kill Devil Hills and joined the Community Foundation in August 2021 with thirty years of executive experience marked by entrepreneurial and organizational accomplishments, at both for-profit and non-profit concerns. He was Dare County Arts Council's Executive Director from 2012 to 2021, leading that agency's resurgence to financial stability and strategic, dramatic growth. He has worked in senior executive positions at Chapel Hill-based Mammoth Records, the first indie record label to produce two platinum-certified records; at Batanga, Inc., an independent digital media company serving U.S. Hispanic and Latin American markets; and at NC start-up Zenph Sound Innovations, before returning to the Outer Banks in 2011. Sawin graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American Studies from Carleton College in Minnesota.

DARE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Charles "Trey" Shelton
Chair of Cancer Committee, Radiation Oncologist
Outer Banks Health

Dr. Charles "Trey" Shelton is a radiation oncologist from the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Dr. Shelton is chair of the Cancer Committee and has 10 years of experience in that capacity addressing barriers to care rurally, including access. He has an interest in removing disparity related to rural geography through shared initiatives in cancer care. Dr. Shelton loves working with team members from other disciplines and is part of the Quality Improvement Committee at the Commission on Cancer since 2023. He represents a valued perspective from a rural program, and from a small community cancer program that addresses barriers to care relating to access in areas with few resources. His hospital is COC accredited since 2016, and NAPBC accredited since 2022.



Ronnie Sloan
President
Outer Banks Health

Ronnie Sloan received his masters in health administration from Kennedy Western University in 1999, Bachelor of Health Sciences in Administration in 1990 from the Medical University of South Carolina and an Associate Degree in Respiratory Therapy in 1985. Sloan was appointed President of Outer Banks Health in 2011. Previous to this appointment, he was the Administrator in charge of Swain County Hospital and Swain Medical Center. In addition, Sloan served as Vice President of Support Services for the MedWest Health System, a three-hospital system with campuses in four counties with 2,100 employees and 304 beds. Sloan is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has been appointed to the Board of Directors for The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce where he is currently the Chair-Elect. He is also on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Aquarium. Sloan is a member of the Community Care Clinic of Dare, Healthy Carolinians of the Outer Banks and Dare Child Community Collaborative. Additionally, Sloan has a clinical background as supervisor and Respiratory Care Practitioner in North and South Carolina. Sloan is the 2018 recipient of the American Hospital Association's Rural Hospital Leadership Award.



Wes Stepp
Executive Chef and Owner
NC Coast Grill & Bar

Wes Stepp is the Executive Chef and owner of NC Coast Grill & Bar, Red Sky Casual Dining & Cocktails & Red Sky Catering, bringing over 30 years of culinary expertise to the Outer Banks. A passionate advocate for fresh, coastal cuisine, Chef Stepp has built a reputation for blending bold flavors with locally sourced ingredients. His career began in fine dining kitchens, where he honed his craft before launching multiple successful restaurants. Beyond the kitchen, he is the creator of *Tastefully Fit*, a program dedicated to healthy, flavorful eating. His culinary philosophy focuses on balancing indulgence with wellness, ensuring every dish is as nourishing as it is delicious. When he's not crafting innovative seafood dishes, you can find him sharing his expertise through cooking demonstrations, TV appearances, and community events.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY SPEAKERS



Eric Evans
County Manager
Edgecombe County

Eric Evans was appointed as the Edgecombe County Manager on October 1, 2015. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant County Manager for five years. He has worked in local government for over twenty-five years.

Evans serves on a number of boards including the Carolinas Gateway Partnership Board of Directors and Executive Board, the Edgecombe County Tourism Development Authority, the Edgecombe County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce.

Evans is also a graduate of East Carolina University.



Gregory McLeod
President
Edgecombe Community College

A native of eastern North Carolina, Dr. Gregory McLeod is proud to serve as the fifth president and first African American president of Edgecombe Community College which has campuses in Tarboro and downtown Rocky Mount. With a passion to help all students succeed and excel, Dr. McLeod is committed and dedicated to serving the education and training needs of our community. His thirty-year career, spanning K-12, higher education, and Corporate America, includes many rich and diverse experiences ranging from teaching, training, advising, coaching, and tech support to developing new programs, establishing partnerships, and leading a college. Dr. McLeod feels honored and blessed to work alongside the many wonderful people at the college and in our community helping our students, residents, and local workforce realize their personal dreams and achieve their professional goals.

MARTIN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Jerika Bope
Public Health Coordinator
Agape Health Services

Jerika Bope is a dedicated public health professional and nonprofit leader with expertise in program development, community engagement, and strategic planning. She holds a Master of Public Administration specializing in Nonprofit Management, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a focus on Biology and Community Health from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and Matter of Balance Master Trainer.

Currently serving as the Public Health Coordinator at Metropolitan Community Health Services, Inc. (Agape Health Services), Bope leads health education initiatives, program implementation, and evaluation efforts to enhance community access to evidence-based health interventions. She has successfully developed and launched programs such as Matter of Balance and Tai Chi under a falls prevention grant, expanding Agape's outreach and impact. Previously, she worked as a Program Manager for the Pennsylvania Leadership Fellows' Academy, where she supported the professional development of peer service providers in the mental health and substance use sectors. Furthermore, her work in Nonprofit Consulting has included capacity building, grant management, and performance evaluation for organizations striving to make a meaningful impact.



Mariah Latham
Practice Manager
Agape Health Services

Mariah Latham is serving as a Practice Manager at Agape Health Services. She studied at Beaufort County Community College and is a graduate of Washington High School. Latham is a native of Beaufort County, NC, and currently resides in Washington. Her deep connection to her community fuels her passion for ensuring access to affordable healthcare, especially in her hometown.

In her role as Practice Manager, Latham oversees daily activities, coordinates with staff to ensure patient satisfaction, and contributes to the overall efficiency of the practice. She is dedicated to improving healthcare services and is passionate about the well-being of her community.

MARTIN COUNTY SPEAKERS



Carol "ReAnne" Mayo
Public Relations and Marketing Manager
Agape Health Services

Carol "ReAnne" Mayo is the Public Relations and Marketing Manager at Agape Health Services. She holds a certification as a Community Health Worker and has specialized training in community organizing. She studied at Beaufort County Community College, where she pursued Environmental Science Technology and Management. Her expertise in public relations, marketing, and community engagement has enabled her to play a key role in Agape's outreach and communications efforts. With a focus on enhancing brand image, building relationships, and generating new clients, Mayo is responsible for spearheading strategic marketing initiatives across five counties in eastern North Carolina. Her work involves developing and executing community outreach programs that promote Agape's healthcare services and strengthen partnerships with local organizations.

Mayo has extensive experience in community organizing and event coordination, having managed over 450 events annually in the past. Her background includes working with local government and tourism, which has helped her develop a strong understanding of community dynamics and stakeholder engagement. Mayo is deeply committed to community involvement and believes in the power of collaboration to drive positive change.



Dimanique Worsley
Practice Administrator
Agape Health Services

Dimanique Worsley is serving as a Practice Administrator at Agape Health Services. She holds an associates from Beaufort County Community College and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Education from the University of Arizona Global Campus. She is currently working towards a Doctorate in Business Administration from South College.

Worsley has been part of the Agape Health Services team since 2018, serving in various capacities, which has contributed to her personal and professional growth. In her current role, she oversees the daily operations of the practice, ensuring high-quality patient care and smooth administrative processes. Her responsibilities also involve improving workflow efficiency and enhancing patient satisfaction.

She is committed to giving back to the community through volunteering and participating in local events. Worsley believes in the importance of community involvement to foster a sense of belonging and support. She is passionate about lifelong learning and staying current with industry trends to continuously improve services.

PASQUOTANK COUNTY SPEAKERS



Frank Feher
Master Planning Manager
TCOM

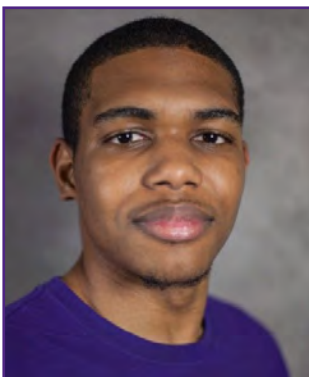
Frank Feher, graduated from ECU with a degree in Industrial Engineering and has been with TCOM, L.P. for 14 years. Feher is at the forefront of airship and aerostat production. He started as a production engineer and spent more than a decade refining the manufacturing processes before stepping into his current role as Master Planning Manager. Feher now leads production planning, engineering, and scheduling efforts, ensuring smooth operations across TCOM. His hands-on experience with LTA systems has made him a key figure in textile design, thin-walled pressure vessel analysis, and helium management—critical components in high-altitude innovation.



Sean Lavin
Program Manager
TCOM

Sean Lavin is a Program Manager at TCOM, L.P., with extensive experience in aerostat systems and program execution. A graduate of East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Entrepreneurship, he has spent nearly two decades contributing to TCOM's operations. Lavin has held diverse roles across multiple company levels throughout his tenure, gaining deep technical knowledge of TCOM's product line and working closely with military units in challenging environments. His leadership was key in executing the largest contract in TCOM's history.

In addition to his work in aerospace and defense, Lavin is currently serving his second term as a Pasquotank County Commissioner. He chairs the Northeast Workforce Development Board and the Utilities Committee while serving on the Economic Development Council and the Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. Board of Directors. His combined expertise in program management, economic development, and public service reflects his commitment to industry innovation and community growth.



Troy Tyler
Production Engineer
TCOM

Troy Tyler is a Production Engineer at TCOM, L.P. Manufacturing and Test Flight Facility in Elizabeth City, supporting the production of mechanical and electrical systems. A graduate of East Carolina University with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering (Electrical Engineering concentration), Tyler joined TCOM in 2019 as an Associate Field Engineer. Over the past five years, he has gained global experience in designing, planning, constructing, and operating TCOM's systems. In addition to technical production support, he mentors local high school interns and documents manufacturing processes to train current and future employees.

PASQUOTANK COUNTY SPEAKERS



Lindsey Cahoon
Professional Coach and Beginning Teacher Coordinator
NEAAAT

Lindsey Cahoon is the professional coach and beginning teacher coordinator for Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies (NEAAAT). She has been part of the NEAAAT family for six years, where she started as the 8th grade mathematics coach and core team lead. In 2021, she transitioned into her current position as the professional coach and beginning teacher coordinator. Cahoon has been in education for 21 years, with many of her years as a middle grades math teacher in Currituck County and Pasquotank County Schools. Cahoon has a bachelor's degree in middle grades education with concentrations in mathematics and history and a master's degree in mathematics education from East Carolina University. She is a National Board Certified Teacher (YA Mathematics) and a gifted certified educator.

Accomplishments throughout her career have been Currituck Beginning Math Teacher of the Year (2005), Currituck County Middle School Teacher of the Year (2009), Elizabeth City Middle School Teacher of the Year (2015), Sanford Teacher of the Year for North Carolina (2018), and Teacher of the Year at NEAAAT (2021). Cahoon supports educators to create engaging, hands-on experience in their classrooms and navigates them on their educational journey.



Andrew Harris
Chief Executive Officer
NEAAAT

NEAAAT's founding leader, Dr. Andrew Harris, currently serves as the school's CEO. He began his career as a science teacher and coach, and has since served schools and districts in a wide range of roles. Prior to founding NEAAAT, he collaborated across communities and states to develop innovative schools, programs, and professional learning. Harris holds BS and MS degrees in Biology, and an EdD in Educational Leadership. His doctoral research centered on improving educational equity, emphasizing school choice in rural communities.

PASQUOTANK COUNTY SPEAKERS



Kimberly Mawhiney
Director of STEM and Grants
NEAAAT

Kimberly Mawhiney, Director of STEM and Grants at Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies, holds a bachelor's in science and a master's in school administration from Elizabeth City State University. In her 20 years as an educator, she spent 16 years at Currituck County High School, where she taught AP Chemistry and served as the Science Department Chair for the last 10 years there. Among the accomplishments throughout her educational career, she was named a Kenan Fellow, 100k in10 Fellow, Hope Street Group Fellow, a NASA NC Space Education Ambassador, and Currituck County Science Teacher of the Year. Mawhiney supports educators, both internally and externally, to develop the capacity to design and facilitate rigorous, engaging, ambitious, authentic, and innovative projects that challenge students to grow increasingly aware of the interconnectedness of the schoolwide curriculum. She advocates for coaches and students while growing and maintaining connections that foster partnership, resource development, and understanding throughout the local and global community.



Caren Roberts Williams
Director of Curriculum and Systems
NEAAAT

Caren Roberts Williams is the Director of Curriculum and Systems for Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies (NEAAAT). She has served over 20 years in education. She began as a secondary social studies teacher and then an instructional coach before transitioning to administration. She is passionate about providing powerful technology-infused learning experiences to students and has provided professional development for teachers and administrators across the state of North Carolina.

Williams leads some of the school's innovative projects: Learning Mastery, PoG Evidence of Learning, and Data Protocols for Student Learning. Williams currently collaborates with Grebing Analytics to create Next Generation Data Dashboards to fully realize personalized learning and student empowerment through data literacy and Regional Laboratory Southeast (REL) in transitioning to Standards-Based Mastery/Competency-Based Learning. She is partnering with Techademics to increase parent/student communication by developing an app for the school's Learning Mastery data sets.

Williams holds a BA in History and a MAT from UNC-Chapel Hill, and a MSA from Elizabeth City State University. She is a National Board-Certified Teacher (AYA Social Studies), Gifted Certified Educator, and a Certified Technology Education Leader (CETL). Williams is currently enrolled in East Carolina University's EdD program for Educational Leadership. Her dissertation is focused on under-represented subgroups in the NC's college and career readiness achievement levels.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SPEAKERS



Mark Clough
Research Scholar, Potato Breeding and Genetics Program
Tidewater Research Station

Mark Clough received his BS ('96) and MS ('98) in Biology from East Carolina University. During spring breaks and summers while in school Clough spent much of his time helping his uncles plant and harvest potatoes. Upon finishing his Master's he came to work at the Tidewater Research Station with NC State University's potato breeding and genetics program in the Department of Horticultural Science. Clough is currently a research scholar with statewide extension responsibilities and in charge of running the day-to-day operations of the NCSU potato breeding program. The NCSU potato breeding program is primarily focused on heat tolerance and southeastern US adaptation and with the assistance of on campus team members employs marker assisted selection, genomic selection and drone/camera imagery to enhance genetic gains. Clough is also assisting the NC Crop Improvement Association in establishing a fledgling certified potato seed program for the state of North Carolina and its potato growers.



Rusty Collins
Superintendent
Tidewater Research Station

Rusty Collins, superintendent, Tidewater Research Station received his bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University in Livestock Management and Agribusiness. Collins has worked for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Research Station Division for 25 years. He has worked at the Piedmont Research Station for 19 of those 25 years. For seven of those years, Collins worked in various roles at the poultry unit and managed research projects. He also spent 12 years at the Dairy unit with six of those years as the manager and worked in the commercial swine industry for seven years.

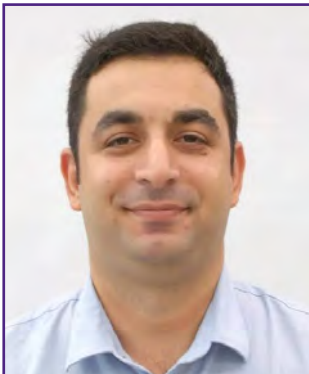
In 2019, Collins was named the superintendent of the Tidewater Research Station. As Superintendent he manages the daily operations of the research station. He ensures that research projects are performed correctly and helps with any problems that may occur.

WASHINGTON COUNTY SPEAKERS



Teresa Lambert
Director of Research Stations
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Teresa Lambert is the Director of Research Stations with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Lambert attended North Carolina State University, receiving a bachelor's in animal science and a master's in Poultry Science. She began her career as a Livestock Extension Agent in 1995 before returning to the Research Stations Division in 1998. Lambert has held numerous positions during her tenure, each allowing her to learn new and wonderful skills to help lead her to her current position.



Ekrem Ozlu
Assistant Professor, Soil management Extensions Specialist
Vernon G. James Research and Extension Center

Ekrem Ozlu is an Assistant Professor and soil management extension specialist at Vernon G James Research and Extension Center, and the Department of Crop and Soil Science, North Carolina State University. Ozlu's program focuses on soil health, soil organic matter, and saltwater intrusion issues related to soil management practices. He obtained his master's degree from South Dakota State University and then received a PhD from the Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison with minors in statistics and geocomputing. Ozlu worked at WK Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University, focused on bioenergy cropping systems prior to joining North Carolina State University. He is also an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at East Carolina University. He describes himself as a full-time soil scientist, a half-time chess player, and a lifelong dream chaser in guarding nature.



Jalyn Ward
Agricultural Agent
Washington County

Jalyn Ward has been working as the Washington County agriculture agent since June 2019. Ward serves as a liaison between Washington County farmers and NC State University research specialists. Because Washington County is one of the four Blackland's counties, she also works closely with the Blackland Farm Managers Association and Tidewater Research Station. There is no "typical day", but the highlights of her job duties include conducting on-farm research trials, helping farmers to identify and solve field issues, providing various types of required pesticide training, and hosting our large annual field day, The Blackland Farm Managers Tour.

[TRAVEL GUIDES](#)

A Day Trip Guide to Downtown Tarboro

Though the setting is centuries old, here are 12 timeless ways to experience this Edgecombe County town.

by Hannah Lee Leidy



Stroll along Tarboro's Park Avenue and admire the historic homes.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES HARRIS

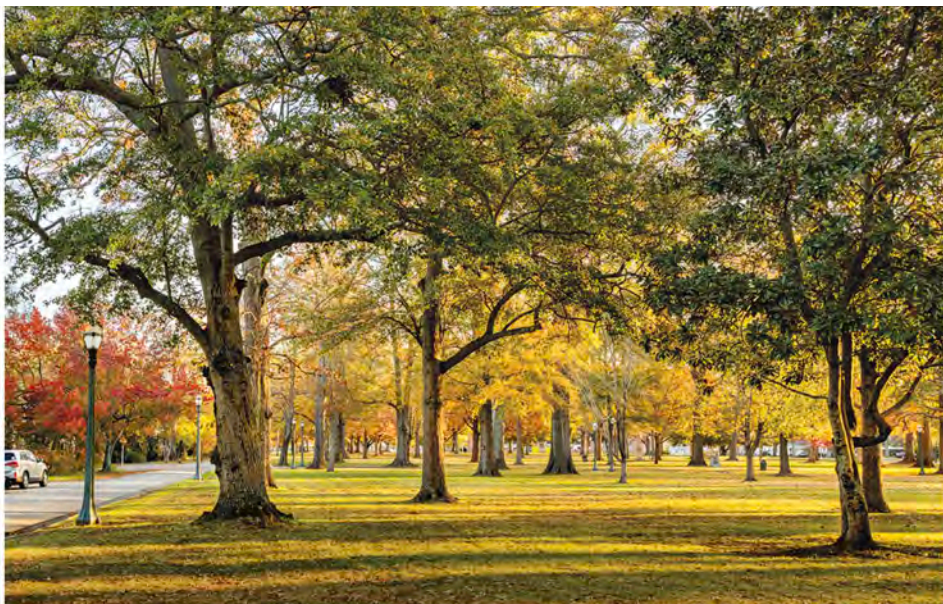


How many times have I driven by Tarboro, barreling along Route 64 toward my destination? One hundred times, 250? An eastern North Carolina native, I know Tarboro's location like a familiar corner in a dark house — west of Williamston, east of Rocky Mount — yet only recently did I stop, deeply intrigued by writer Katie Schanze's exploration of the circa-1760 Town Common and sprawling historic district ([click here](#) to read it). Still, I was unprepared for the scale of splendid architecture that consumed this tiny, Edgecombe County town. The beautifully restored Antebellum, Victorian, and colonial homes went on for blocks — more than my dog and I could cover in a walk (and *that's* saying something). And the friendly Main Street! People said “hello” when you entered shops, and restaurant diners routinely waved “hey!” and gave hugs and handshakes to familiar faces entering the eateries. It's well worth a detour, and even more



You Might Also Like:

- 1 [One Day in Historic Halifax](#)
- 2 [On Common Ground in Tarboro](#)
- 3 [14 Candlelight Tours Around the State](#)



Originally 50 acres, Tarboro Town Common bridges the downtown's commercial district and historic residential neighborhood.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES HARRIS

Stroll

Town Common

Spanning 15 acres and approximately four blocks, [this grassy expanse](#) is the second-oldest legislated town common in the country, outside of Boston. Peppared with granite statues, park benches, and the Wyatt Fountain — surrounded by a small flower bed — the common is bordered by elegant old homes, willing you to stroll the perimeter of as much of the green as possible.

Walking Tour of Downtown

Tarboro's historic district covers 364 homes, buildings, and churches in a 45-block area. It'd be a feat to traverse it all on foot in a day, but you can easily get your fill of strolling around Main Street — Park Avenue, Baker Street, Bridgers Street, St. David Street, and St. Andrew Street are just a few to get you started — before you hop in the car and crisscross the grid of blocks. Along the route, swing by the eucalyptus-green Blount Bridgers House, the historic churches on the southeast side of downtown, and the Cotton Press, in addition to the stately residential homes.

Calvary Episcopal Church

With a towering steeple and intricate stained-glass windows, you shouldn't miss this striking gothic church, built in 1867. Many of the original furnishings and structures in the chancel still remain. Even if you just stick to the surrounding grounds (it occupies an entire block) you can explore the churchyard on foot, following landscaped paths that lead under oaks, pines, and crape myrtles to the



More than 150 years after it was built, Calvary Episcopal Church has many of the original furnishings, including its altar and chairs used by the bishop and deacon.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHARLES HARRIS



Get our most popular weekly newsletter: This is NC

Email Address

SIGN UP

SEE ALL OUR NEWSLETTERS >



cemetery and brick cloister.

Shop

The Social Secretary

This [gift shop meets florist](#) inside the center on 409 North Main Street specializes in niche, playful accessories, home decor, and luxury sundries to enhance your home entertaining and gift-giving. Thumb through the Southern cookbooks and treat yourself to a scented candle, lotion, or hand soap. Need a touch of color? Select your favorite blooms and arrange them into a custom bouquet.



Select a custom bouquet from Social Secretary.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KIRIN_PHOTO/ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Berry & Bud

Find your next outfit at this [men's and women's boutique](#). From sundresses for a dressy occasion to trendy accessories like Brackish bowties, colors and textures pop in this Main Street space.

August Georges

From the chic streets of Georgetown to Tarboro's Main Street, this [elevated shop](#) for home decor and furnishings can help you refresh a room or reimagine your home into an elegant, French countryside-inspired space. Originally opened in Washington, D.C., August Georges also served clientele in Virginia before opening in Tarboro in 2021. Owner Deborah Winsor travels throughout the country and Europe, sourcing inspiration that she brings back to her Edgecombe County showroom.

Eat

On the Square

A lunch bistro by day and upscale restaurant by night with a menu that changes every few days based on what's in season, this [Tarboro mainstay](#) is the product of Inez and Stephen Ribustello's years spent working in New York City's restaurant scene. The lunch menu features an array of creative and satisfying sandwiches (go for the hot roast beef with caramelized onions, roasted red peppers, and provolone cheese), plus salads and sides. Come dinner, regional vegetables and proteins shine, and the fish entrée is a favorite. Adjacent to the bar is a wine cellar complete with bottles you can order to pair with your dinner or purchase to take home.

Abrams Restaurant

If you're craving Southern comfort food, [Abrams](#) is the answer. Open from breakfast to dinner, you can get a plate loaded with pulled pork barbecue, fried chicken, and an assortment of classic vegetable sides, plus some crispy hush



puppies. Don't miss the cheese biscuit stuffed with hoop cheese that puddles out when you cut into the middle.

Church Street Tap & Deli

I didn't make it to [Church Street Tap & Deli](#) when I visited Tarboro but I will be stopping by the next time I pass through. Open for breakfast and lunch, you can take your pick of sandwiches, categorized by protein — egg, turkey, pork, chicken, or beef — paired with a brew from the beer taps on the wall. Don't miss out on a side of broccoli salad — a customer favorite. Note that Church Street Tap & Deli is located underneath Tarboro Coffee House, down the steps from the Main Street entrance (an elevator is also located at the back of the coffee house).

Drink

Taps on Main

This pint-sized pub is a beloved watering hole on Main Street. Grab one of the seats at the bar and catch the game on the flat-screen television, or settle in with friends at one of the tables. The red-brick space hosts regular events, from live music to scheduled bar crawls, plus a rotation of food trucks for those looking to pair a bite with their brew. Check their [social media page](#) for upcoming happenings.

Tarboro Brewing Company

Tarboro's very own [craft brewery](#) produces more than a dozen different flagship and seasonal beers, from IPAs to lagers to Belgian-style brews. While you can find their beers throughout the Carolinas, swing by the brewery and taproom on Main Street, housed inside a former Chevrolet dealership. The open space overlooks the street and has a spacious patio that can be used during the warmer months.

Throughout the week, TBC hosts different food vendors and community events that you can learn more about on their [social media page](#).



Sip your pint of Tarboro Brewing Company beer in the taproom or, if the weather's nice, enjoy it on the patio.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LAURIPATTERSON/EH/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Tarboro Coffee House

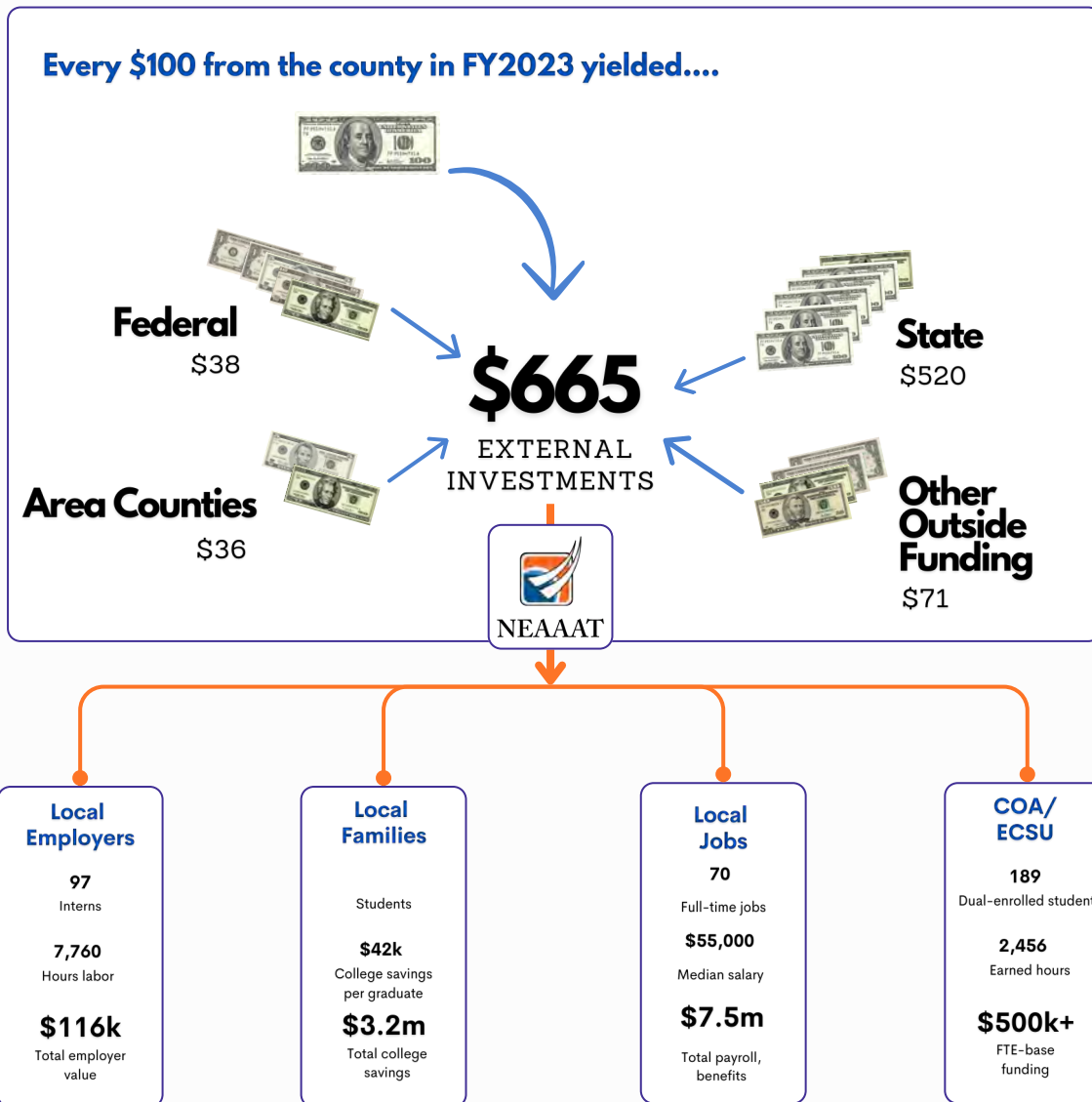
Every town needs a [community coffee shop](#) and Tarboro takes it one step further with an accompanying ice cream counter (because a hit of sugar with your caffeine is always a good idea), plus a menu of breakfast and lunchtime sandwiches. Order a Mexicana — a winter-warming blend of drip coffee with hot cocoa and a little cinnamon — and take a seat by the windows that wrap around the front corner to overlook Main and Church streets.



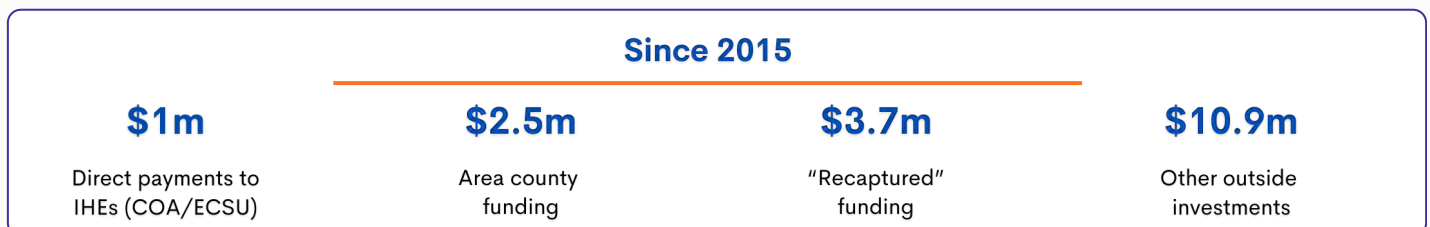
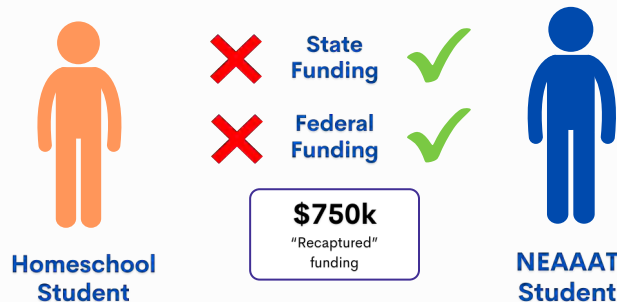
Hannah Lee Leidy

Hannah Lee is a born-and-raised North Carolinian and the digital editor for *Our State* magazine. Her contributions have appeared in *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Bon Appétit*, *Epicurious*, *Culture*, and the *Local Palate*. When not parenting her Bernese mountain pup named Ava, she's visiting the nearest cheese counter.

Investing in NEAAAT is Investing in Our Community

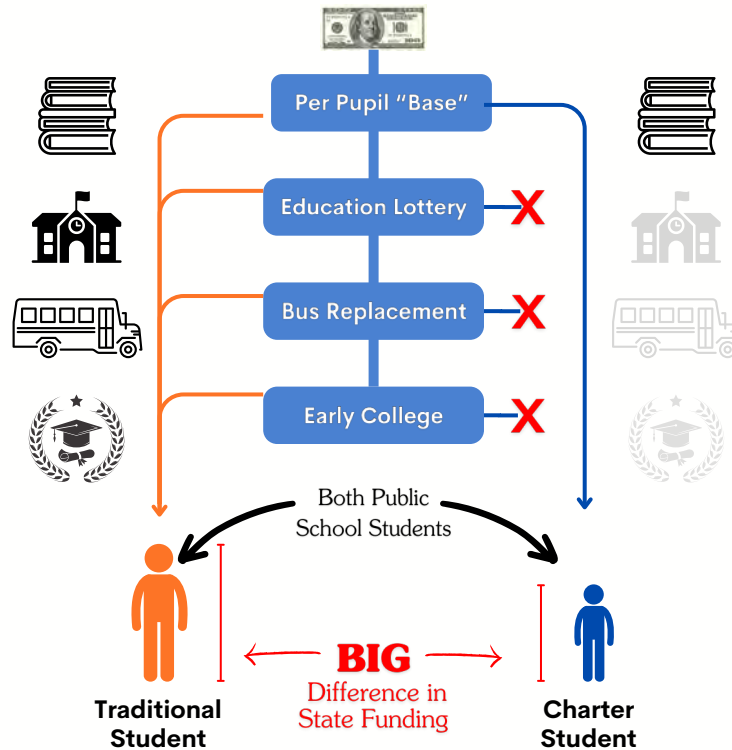


...and when private school and homeschool families choose NEAAAT, state and federal dollars are often “recaptured” for our community



Our Public School Systems: A Tale of Two Students

State Public School Funds

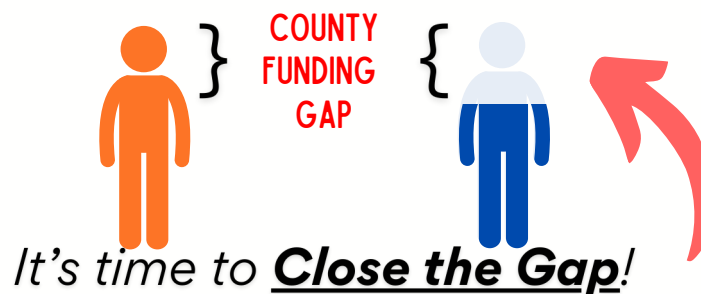


And the gap only gets bigger...

...when county funding gaps are taken into account. NC counties could not provide capital funding to charters before 2023, which has led to...

Traditional Public <small>4639 Initial ADM</small>		Public Charter <small>536 Initial ADM (Pasq.)</small>
\$10,186,975	Current Expense \$11,364,000	\$1,177,025
\$127,717	Fines & Forfeitures \$142,474	\$14,757
\$2,056,190	Capital Outlay \$2,056,190	\$0
\$1,618,516	Debt Retirement \$1,618,516	\$0
\$209,143	SRO (net) \$209,143	\$0
\$14,198,541		\$1,191,782
\$3,061	FUNDING GAP	\$2,223

...HUGE funding gaps between public school students in the same county.





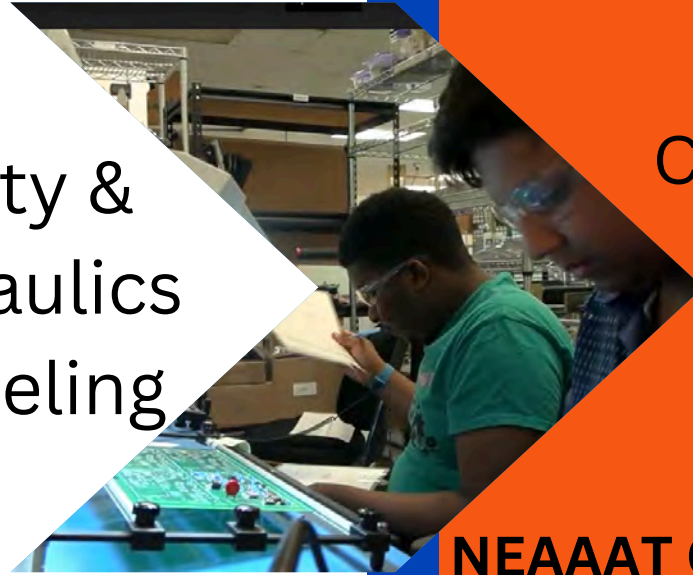
THE NEAAAT CAREER CENTER



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Current Adv. Man 1 & 2

Shop Safety * Quality & Measurements
Hydraulics
Tinkercad * 3-D Modeling



NEAAAT Certifications: Safety & Quality

Future Adv. Man. 1, 2, 3, 4

Machining * Welding
Close Tolerance Manufacturing
AutoCAD * SOLIDWORKS
Maintenance * Mechatronics
4 & 5 Axis 3D Modeling

NEAAAT Certifications: MSSC: Manufacturing Processes & Production, Maintenance Awareness, Green Production, CPT 4.0

- CNC Machine
 - Lathe
 - Mill
 - Water Jet
 - Laser Cutter
 - Mig Welder
- Advanced*
EQUIPMENT



AVIATION

Current Aviation 1 & 2

Safety * Tello Drone * Hand Tools * Measurements
Basics * Avionic History & Careers



Certification: FAA Part 107 Drone Pilot License (Contracted)

Future Aviation 1 & 2

Applied Mechanics * Aerospace Safety & Quality * Electronics
Sheet Metal & Composites
Wind Tunnel * Design & Fabrication
Lift * Drag * Thrust

NEAAAT Certification: FAA Part 107 Drone Pilot License

- Hydraulics Trainer
 - Engine Stand
 - Jay Velocity Simulator
 - Metal Brake
 - Bead Blaster
 - Wind Tunnel & Metrics
- Advanced*
EQUIPMENT



FABRICATION LAB

T.E.D, Design Thinking, Robotics 1 & 2

Shop Safety * Design & Engineering Processes
Electronics
Basic Fabrication
Programming



Certifications: OSHA & Forklift (Contracted)

T.E.D, Design Thinking, Robotics 1 & 2, NEAAAT Open Shop

Welding
Adv. Fabrication w/ Wood & Metal
3D Prototyping w/ AutoCAD & SOLIDWORKS

NEAAAT Certification: OSHA

- Plasma Cutter
 - ShopBot
 - Jointer
 - Planer
 - Drill Press
 - Table Saw
 - Band Saw
- Advanced*
EQUIPMENT



NEAAAT

Portrait of a Graduate



READY TO
Soar & Roar



COLLABORATING TEAMMATE

Contributes to a team to successfully achieve team goals; demonstrates professionalism



DESIGN THINKER

Uses the DT process to create innovative, lasting solutions



ENGAGED COMMUNICATOR

Effectively communicates in a wide variety of forms and audiences; actively listens



RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN

Contributes to the community through service and understands their impact



EMPATHETIC LEARNER

Includes everyone in the learning journey; grows, adapts, and improves through knowledge in multiple disciplines



CONFIDENT ACHIEVER

Is a prepared, humble advocate who can convey their leadership, talents, beliefs, and values

LEARNING FOR THE REAL WORLD. EVERY CLASS. EVERY DAY.



NEAAAT

Portrait of a Graduate

COLLABORATING TEAMMATE

- WORKS WITH OTHERS WITHOUT JUDGEMENT.**
- UNDERSTANDS AND ADAPTS TO OTHERS' STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.**
- HOLDS OTHERS AND THEMSELVES ACCOUNTABLE.**
- DEMONSTRATES PROFESSIONALISM AND RESPECTS ONE ANOTHER.**
- FOCUSES ON SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVING TEAM GOALS.**



DESIGN THINKER

- APPLIES THE DESIGN THINKING PROCESS IN LEARNING AND EVERYDAY DECISION MAKING.**
- ADAPTS TO THE PROCESS AND IS FLEXIBLE TO THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION SERVED.**
- PERSEVERES TOWARD INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.**
- FOCUSES ON THE FUTURE.**
- WORKS TOWARD LASTING SOLUTIONS WITH RESILIENCE.**



ENGAGED COMMUNICATOR

- SHARES THEIR IDEAS CONFIDENTLY WITH ANYONE.**
- UNDERSTANDS HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE VERBALLY AND NON-VERBALLY.**
- PRACTICES ACTIVE LISTENING.**
- COMMUNICATES IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER, INCLUDING WRITTEN FORMS.**



RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN

- APPLIES LIFE SKILLS TO THEIR DAILY LIVING.**
- CONTRIBUTES POSITIVELY TO THEIR COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE.**
- DEVELOPS HEALTHY HABITS OF SELF-CARE.**
- UNDERSTANDS THE WEIGHT OF THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS.**



EMPATHETIC LEARNER

- PROMOTES KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING.**
- RELATES TO OTHERS.**
- WORKS TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE'S VOICE IS HEARD IN THE LEARNING PROCESS.**
- CONSISTENTLY GAINS CONTENT KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO BE WELL ROUNDED AND INFORMED.**
- FOCUSES ON GROWTH, CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, AND WILLINGNESS TO LEARN AND ADAPT.**



CONFIDENT ACHIEVER

- PREPARES FOR THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF NEAAAT.**
- MAINTAINS A HUMBLE CONFIDENCE.**
- DEMONSTRATES POSITIVE LEADERSHIP.**
- ADVOCATES FOR THEMSELVES.**
- VOICES THEIR IDEAS, BELIEFS, AND VALUES WITH RESPECT.**





Our Mission

The Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies (NEAAAT) opened in 2015 as a highly innovative regional public school that inspires and prepares all students with the STEM-related skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to meet future challenges in the global workforce and their communities. Today, NEAAAT is widely recognized as one of the most innovative schools in the country due to advances in work-based learning, design thinking curricula, advanced career pathways, continuous improvement systems, and learning mastery/competency-based education.

STEM @ NEAAAT

At its core, NEAAAT believes that a rigorous STEM education centers on “Strategies That Engage Minds”. Our most celebrated strategies include:

- **Work-Based Learning:** Internships (160+ hours) are available for juniors and seniors, up to four courses (Internship I-IV) prior to graduation, as well as multiple industry-recognized certification opportunities.
- **Design Thinking:** Students routinely use a human-centered process that challenges them to design and test real-world processes and prototypes to solve problems. This process is used throughout the NEAAAT curriculum.
- **Advanced Career Pathways:** As a national model school, NEAAAT partners with many of the nation’s leading institutions and organizations to co-design specialized, best-in-class courses that are aligned to four major career pathways: Aviation, Advanced Manufacturing, Computer Science, and Health Science.
- **J-Term:** Students participate in various January Term (J-Term) workshops to build college and career readiness skills, earn industry certifications, and/or explore their interests.
- **Continuous Improvement/Competency-based Education:** NEAAAT teaches students to use a cyclical continuous improvement process (“3D Process”) to Discover an improvement goal, Design a personal improvement plan, Deliver the plan to determine its effectiveness, and once again Discover a new goal for improvement. At each phase of the 3D process and throughout all classes, students use their real-time learning data relative to course standards to build skills in metacognition, personal awareness, self-advocacy, and independence/interdependence. NEAAAT has adopted six Portrait of a Graduate competencies, and by 2029, all graduates will have demonstrated mastery in each competency area.
- **Problem- and Project-Based Learning:** PBL is a central instructional strategy at NEAAAT. Students frequently work in teams to identify and improve or solve problems, build and fulfill project management plans, handle conflict, manage resources, and interact with diverse groups of stakeholders.
- **Dual Enrollment:** Students can enroll in university or community college courses beginning with a single course in 9th grade. By the 11th grade year, most NEAAAT students are eligible for dual enrollment. NEAAAT does not offer AP or IB courses.
- **Service:** NEAAAT students are encouraged to complete at least 150 hours of community volunteerism before graduation. Limited opportunities are offered to students during the regular school day, so students must demonstrate personal initiative and resourcefulness to fulfill this expectation.
- **Student Portfolios:** Annually, students present a capstone project to an audience of NEAAAT coaches, business partners, and volunteers to reflect on their personal goals and demonstrate their readiness for the next grade level.
- **Public Presentations:** NEAAAT students are supported in building excellent public presentation skills through frequent public presentations to authentic audiences. The highlight of the school year is the Annual Exhibition of Student Learning (Expo), wherein students present physical demonstrations of their learning to a diverse, floating audience of thousands of community members.

Recent Accolades

- National Canopy Project Innovative School
- National Purple Star School Award
- National Study Site, Regional Education Lab, Inst. of Ed. Sciences, US Dept. of Ed.
- YASS Prize Semifinalist

Demographics

- 760 students, grades 5-12
- 79 students, Class of 2025
- 7 counties served
- Title I School - 45% Free and Reduced Eligible
- 100% of counties classified Rural

Co-Curricular Activities

NEAAAT offers a variety of clubs and activities integrated into the school day, and this is our third year offering sports programs. We currently offer basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer, and volleyball. For clubs, we have a VEX Competition team, SGA, Beta Club, and other teacher-led clubs.

Graduation Requirements

Students must obtain at least 28 credits to graduate, in addition to successfully defending their senior portfolio. Core courses are developed to meet the learning objectives specified within the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. NEAAAT offers four specialized pathways aligned to high-demand, high-wage careers: Advanced Manufacturing, Aviation, Computer Science, and Health Science. Students complete course sequences along one or more of these pathways as they work to satisfy local graduation requirements.

Grading

NEAAAT employs a standardized numerical grading scale and calculates weighted and unweighted grade point averages (GPAs). According to state policy, courses are assigned grade point weights as shown in the chart at left. While standard (non-honors) courses allow 4 grade points, more rigorous honors courses receive 4.5 grade points, and college/university courses allow 5 grade points. Consistent with NEAAAT's curriculum design and instructional philosophy, all eligible core courses are offered at the honors level. This year all students have transitioned to Mastery Learning. This grading system is a hybrid of standards/competency-based feedback models where each student's final class average is converted to the state-mandated numerical scale.

LM Scale	LM Numeric Grade	Traditional Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Description
Exceeding	3.4-4.0	95	A	Consistently demonstrates a deep level of content knowledge and skills related to course and/or grade level standards that surpasses basic proficiency
Meeting	2.6-3.3	85	B	Consistently demonstrates content knowledge and skills related to course and/or grade level standards that meet grade/course level proficiency
Progressing	1.8-2.5	75	C	Consistently demonstrates some content knowledge and skills related to course and/or grade level standards that show progress toward proficiency
Not Demonstrated	<1.8	55	F	Consistently demonstrates little content knowledge and skills related to course and/or grade-level standards
	--	--	WP	Withdrew passing
	--	--	WF	Withdrew failing
Meeting	≥1.8	--	Pass	Met minimum proficiency
Not Demonstrated	<1.8	--	Fail	Did not meet minimum proficiency

Transcripts and Ranking

NEAAAT reports exact class ranking within student transcripts based on each student’s weighted, cumulative GPA. In the case of ties, the highest numerical average will determine the highest rank. Strength of schedule is an important factor in determining class rank.

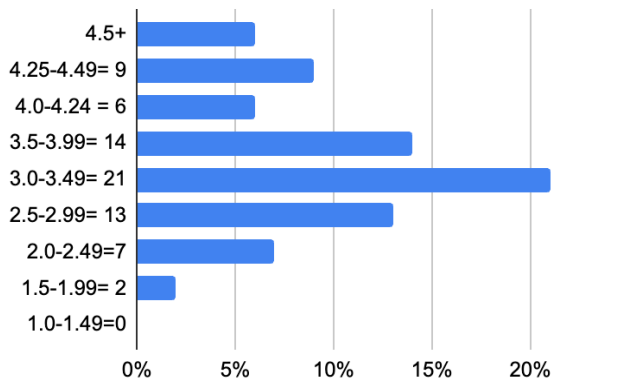
NUMERICAL GRADE RANGE	STANDARD COURSES	HONORS COURSES	COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY COURSES
90-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
80-89	3.0	3.5	4.0
70-79	2.0	2.5	3.0
60-69	1.0	1.5	2.0
<60	0.0	0.0	0.0
WP	0.0	0.0	0.0
WF	0.0	0.0	0.0

For additional information, please contact either of our high school counselors:

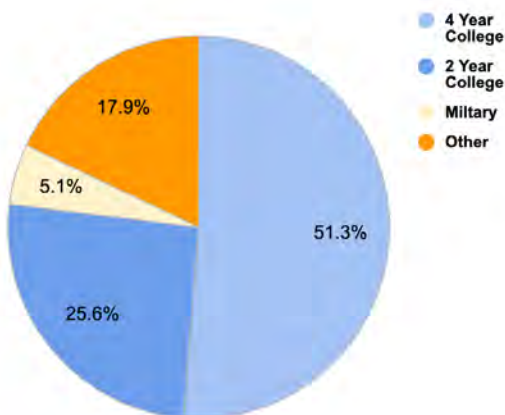
Samantha Doran, samanthadoran@northeastacademy.org
 Phil Huey, philhuey@northeastacademy.org

Comparative Statistics: Class of 2024

Weighted GPA Distribution



Postsecondary Plans



Notable Achievements

- 78 Graduates
- \$1,688,605 Scholarships Awarded
- 26% Associate Degree Earners
- 76% College Credit Earners
- 32% CTE-College Credits Completers
- 3% CTE-College Pathway Completers
- 2,376 College Credits Overall
- 72% Internship Completers
- >95% College Success Rate

Learning for the Real World. Every Class, Every Day.

1413 W. Ehringhaus St | Elizabeth City, NC 27909 | 252.562.0653

northeastacademy.org facebook.com/NEAAAT

CEEB School Code: 341134

Comparative Statistics: Class of 2024

College Acceptances

Appalachian State University	Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte	University of Mount Olive
Barton College	Lees-McRae College	University of North Carolina at Asheville
Brevard College	Lenoir Community College	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Brigham Young University- Idaho	Liberty University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Campbell University	Meredith College	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Catawba College	Norfolk State University	University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Citadel Military College of South Carolina	North Carolina A & T State University	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
College of the Albemarle	North Carolina Central University	Virginia Military Institute
East Carolina University	North Carolina State University	Virginia Tech
Elizabeth City State University	North Carolina Wesleyan University	Western Carolina University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Old Dominion University	William Peace University
Fayetteville State University	Pfeiffer University	Winston-Salem State University
Gardner-Webb University	Purdue University	
Greensboro College	Regent University	
Guilford College	Tidewater Community College	

Work-Based Learning Partners

ABC Play	Hall Auto Body	Patriot Auto
Aflac	Halsey's Lawn and Garden	Perquimans Central School
Albemarle Audiology	Hertford Grammar School	Perquimans Emergency Management Services
Albemarle Orthotics and Prosthetics	Hobbs Farm	Photography by Jill
AR Chesson	Hockmeyer	Pitt Road Express Lube
Arts of the Albemarle	Homestyle Bakery and Cafe	Port Discover
Avoca	In Stitches	River City Bark and Park
B&S Enterprise	J.H. Sanders Aviation	River City Gymnastics
Biggs Buick	Meraki Academy of Dance	Sanctuary Design Company
Camp Cale	Merchants Mill State Park	Sentara Healthcare
Carolina Moon Bakery	Montero's Restaurant	Sheep-Harney Elementary School
CB's Auto	Motion Sensors	Southern Maid Donuts
Chowan Animal Hospital	Muddy Waters Coffeehouse	SPCA of Northeastern North Carolina
COA Communications and Marketing Department	Museum of the Albemarle	Tarheel Internal Medicine
COA Theatre Department	North Carolina Business Committee for Education	TCOM
United States Coast Guard	Nestlerode Orthopedic Rehabilitation	Tire Lube and Car Care
Coastal Rehabilitation	Nissan of Elizabeth City	Vector CSP
Dice Goblins	Page After Page Bookstore	Viking Sound Studio
Donna Winborne, CPA	Parrish Aviation	Water Street Realty
Elizabeth City State University Public Radio/TV	Pasquotank County Social Services	White Oak Elementary School
Elizabeth City Airport	Pasquotank Animal Hospital	Whitehat Seed Farm
F&H Print and Sign Design	Pasquotank County Library	Winfall Volunteer Fire Department
Fountain of Life Church	Pasquotank County Parks & Recreation	Wood's Service Center
Grandy Primary School	Pasquotank County Senior Center	YMCA
	Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office	

Learning for the Real World. Every Class, Every Day.

1413 W. Ehringhaus St | Elizabeth City, NC 27909 | 252.562.0653

northeastacademy.org facebook.com/NEAAAT

CEEB School Code: 341134



HOURS & LOCATION

[118 S Hughes Blvd,](#)
[Elizabeth City, NC 27909](#)
[252-621-1174](#)
currituckbbq@gmail.com

Welcome to Currituck BBQ number TWO!

Our food is so good, we had to duplicate ourselves.

Come see us in our D R I V E T H R U!

Open 11:00 am - 9:00 pm



DAEDALUS™

MASTER CRAFTSMANSHIP

Daedalus was the inventor of the first set of wings.

He created the labyrinth on Crete, which we can still visit today.

The inventor of the hammer and saw.

Daedalus symbolizes master craftsmanship.

Which as a company is what we embody.





STEFAN MUFF

Stefan created the technology for Google Maps. One of his current companies, Axon Active, develops high-performance processing software and testing. Stefan is a global changemaker with more than 4 billion daily active users of his products. He believes in green technology as an imperative philosophy for the future of yachting. Stefan is ready to change the world again with Daedalus.



MICHAEL REARDON

Michael has crafted award-winning, future-focused carbon boats for the past 35 years. Past notable positions include working with John McConaghy, J&J brothers at Seaway Group (Greenline, OceanClass, Shipman, Skagen) and Gunboat. He is continually at the forefront of composite technology in a variety of industries. Michael and the companies he has been instrumental in have won 36 Boat Of The Year awards during his career in the marine industry.



Global Range. Zero Emissions.





Daedalus D100 No.1 in build

GENERATION NEXT

Over the last 5 years, advances in technology have led to dramatic improvements in sailing performance. All previously long held records have been smashed. The new standards of ocean-going speed have been reset to new and incredible levels.

The secret of these racers' speed potential lies in technology developed around two materials: CARBON fibres and EPOXY resin. When resin systems are combined with reinforcing fibres such as carbon, exceptional properties can be obtained. The resin matrix spreads the load applied to the composite between each of the individual fibres and also protects the fibres from damage caused by abrasion and impact.

These materials make for a stronger, stiffer and lighter boat. This combined with beautifully engineered foils are the key factors in the dramatic increase in performance of today's racing boats. The result are spectacular; along with lower displacement we achieve easier handling and higher performance.

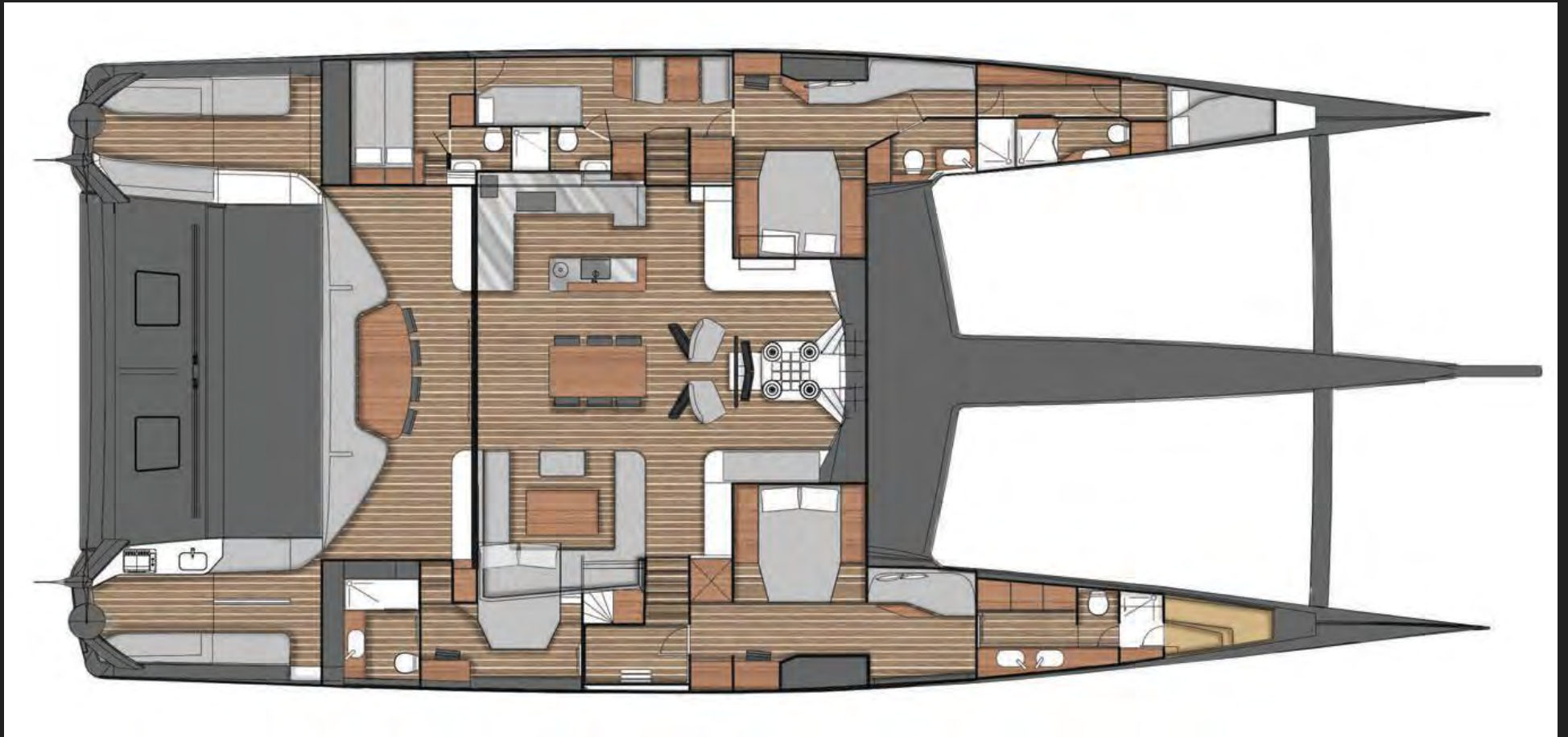
For this reason, all Daedalus Yachts are built with epoxy resin pre-pregnated carbon fibres cured under vacuum. By incorporating aerospace quality and superior engineering techniques we are able to redefine cruising performance without compromising safety or durability.





Daedalus D100



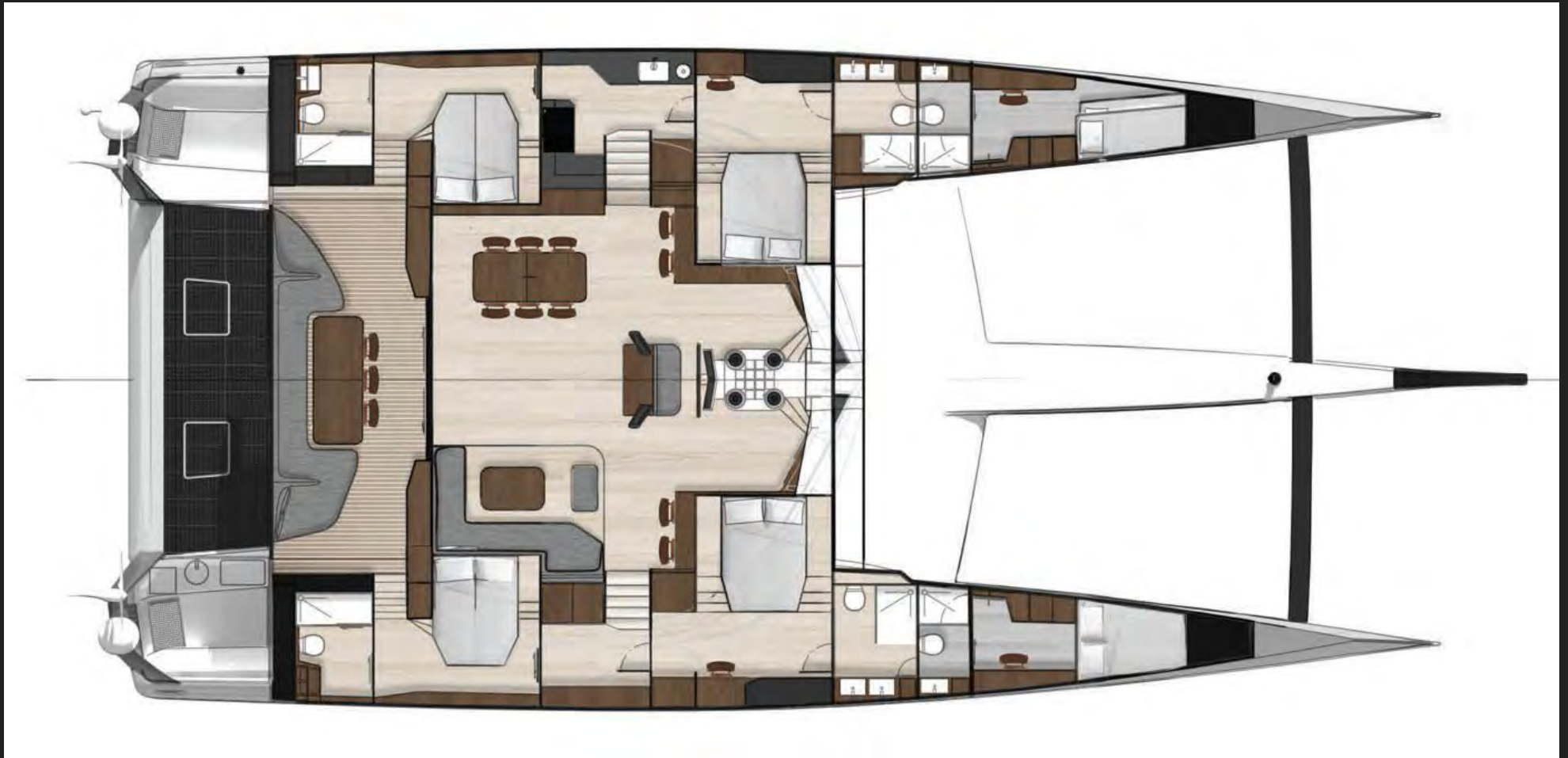


Sample Layout Daedalus D100

LAYOUT 1

GALLEY UP + 3 CABINS + 3 CREW + 1 MODULAR



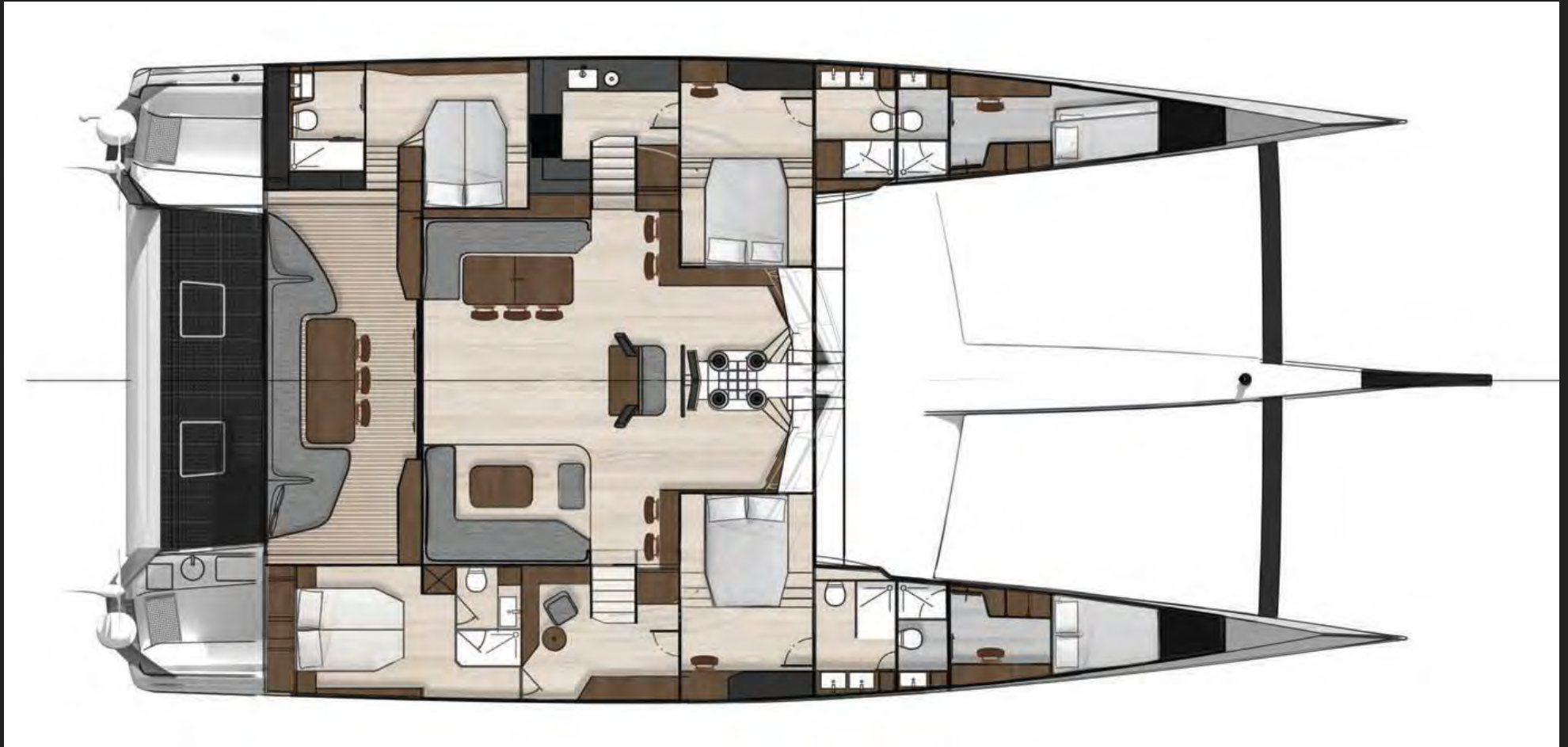


Sample Layout Daedalus D100

LAYOUT 2

GALLEY DOWN + 4 CABINS + 4 CREW





Sample Layout Daedalus D100

LAYOUT 3

GALLEY DOWN + 4 CABINS + OWNERS HULL + 4 CREW





Daedalus D100 Interior



Just as there has always been a demand for exclusive high-performance yachts, we are now in an era that also demands clean energy boating. The D100 is a life-changing yacht that takes the elements of sun, wind, and water and rolls them into one clean green energy yacht.





Daedalus D100 Underwater Lounge



The underwater lounge presents a rare glimpse in the unseen world which floats by while sailing. An exciting place underway and a meditative space at anchor. In each situation it will be an unforgettable experience.





Daedalus D100 Interior



The dramatic styling and five cabins gives you a vessel that is based on timeless design theory. The abundance of white space acts as a canvas for the light which reflects the outside space and highlights the use of accent materials throughout.





Daedalus D100



HOW WE INCORPORATE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

SEA

While under sail we are able to generate up to 30 kW per hour from our propulsion system, in regeneration mode.

WATER

Utilizing the process of reverse osmosis and deionization, we can take seawater and prepare it for both drinking and converting to hydrogen. The energy produced while sailing with the propulsion motors in regeneration mode enable us to produce pure hydrogen from the purified water. Stored in specially designed cylinders at up to 350 bar (5,000 psi), we can carry almost 150 kg of hydrogen to supplement the electrical energy in the batteries. Hydrogen will be converted to electricity as required by the two 80kW fuel cells, which will maintain the level of charge in the batteries and to provide electrical energy for extended periods of motoring.

WIND

The wind enables us to sail at incredible speeds. Our wind generators are giving us up to 4kW per hour of electrical energy at anchor or underway.

SUN

By day, up to 5 kW per hour of solar energy can be collected from the photovoltaic cells on the central cabin's roof and an additional 4 kW from solar-cloth panels that can be unfurled across the forward trampolines. When sailing, an additional 3-5 kW may be generated by the solar cells on the mainsail.



OUR HYDROGEN TANKS

Daedalus Yachts, in Partnership with Steelhead Composites, provides the utmost safety and durable hydrogen storage tanks. Steelhead Composites offers lightweight composite-overwrapped pressure vessels for high-pressure hydrogen storage. Their Type 3 cylinders are made of robust, seamless aluminum liner completely overwrapped with durable epoxy-impregnated carbon fiber composite.

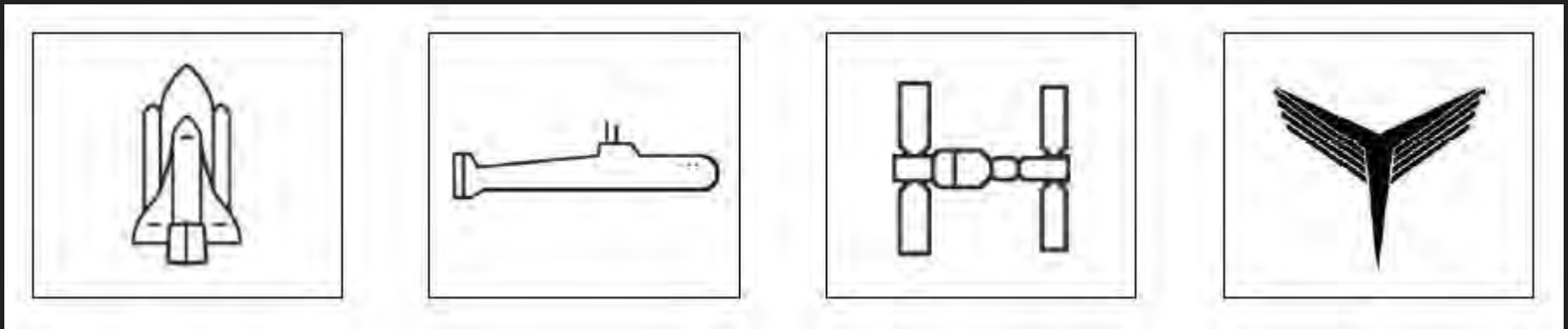
3 Testing + Inspecting Phases By DNV GL:

- **DNV GL inspects Construction Of Hydrogen Tanks At Steelhead Composites Factory.**
- **DNV GL inspects Installation Of Hydrogen Tanks On Boat at Daedalus Yachts Factory.**
- **DNV GL inspects Inspects And Certifies Hydrogen Tanks and Operation Of The Hydrogen System After Boat Is Launched.**



HYDROGEN SAFETY

The same Electrolyzer is used in



EVERY US SPACESHIP
EVER LAUNCHED

EVERY US AND
EUROPEAN
SUBMARINE FOR THE
LAST 35 YEARS

THE INTERNATIONAL
SPACE STATION

THE DAEDALUS D100

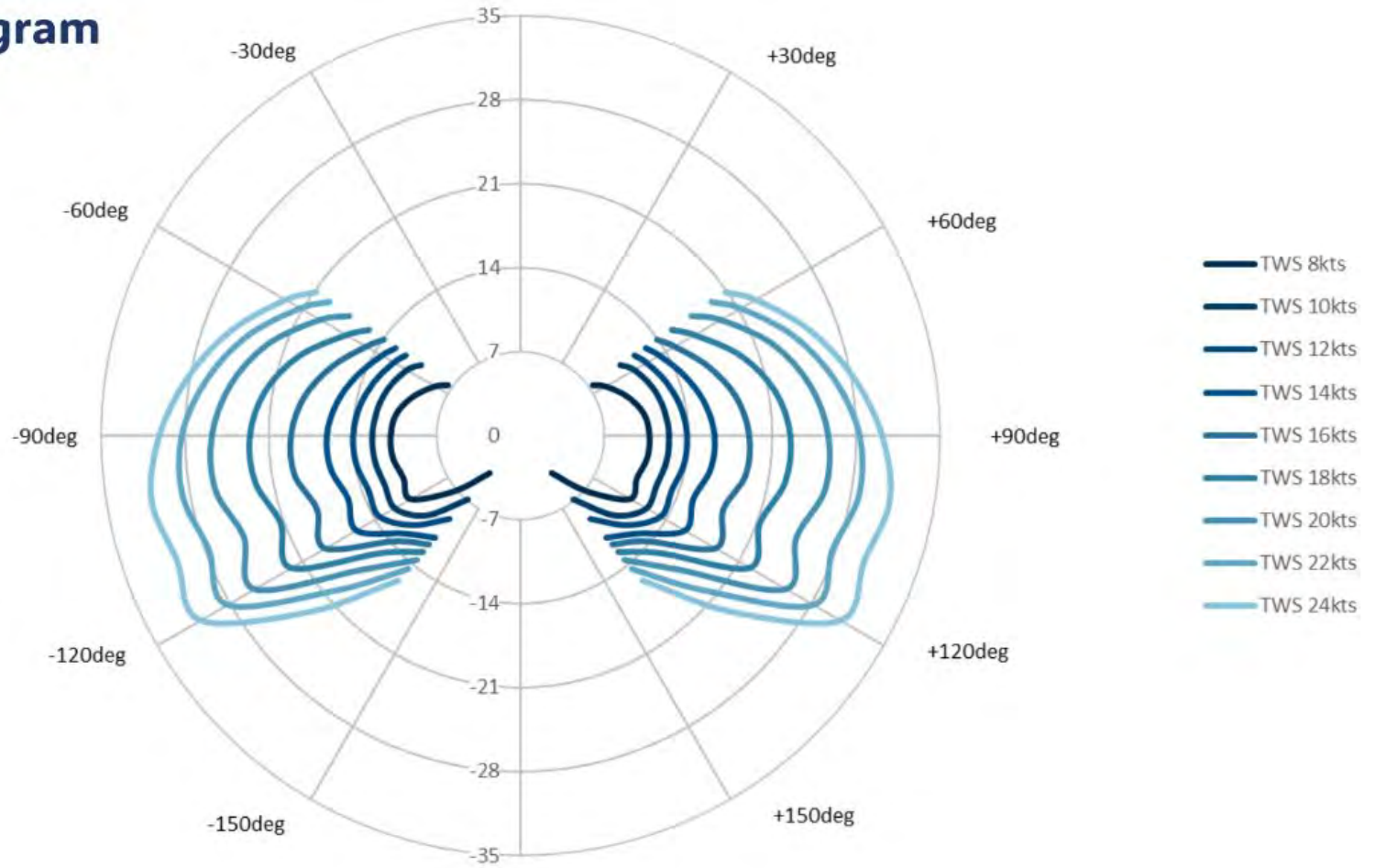


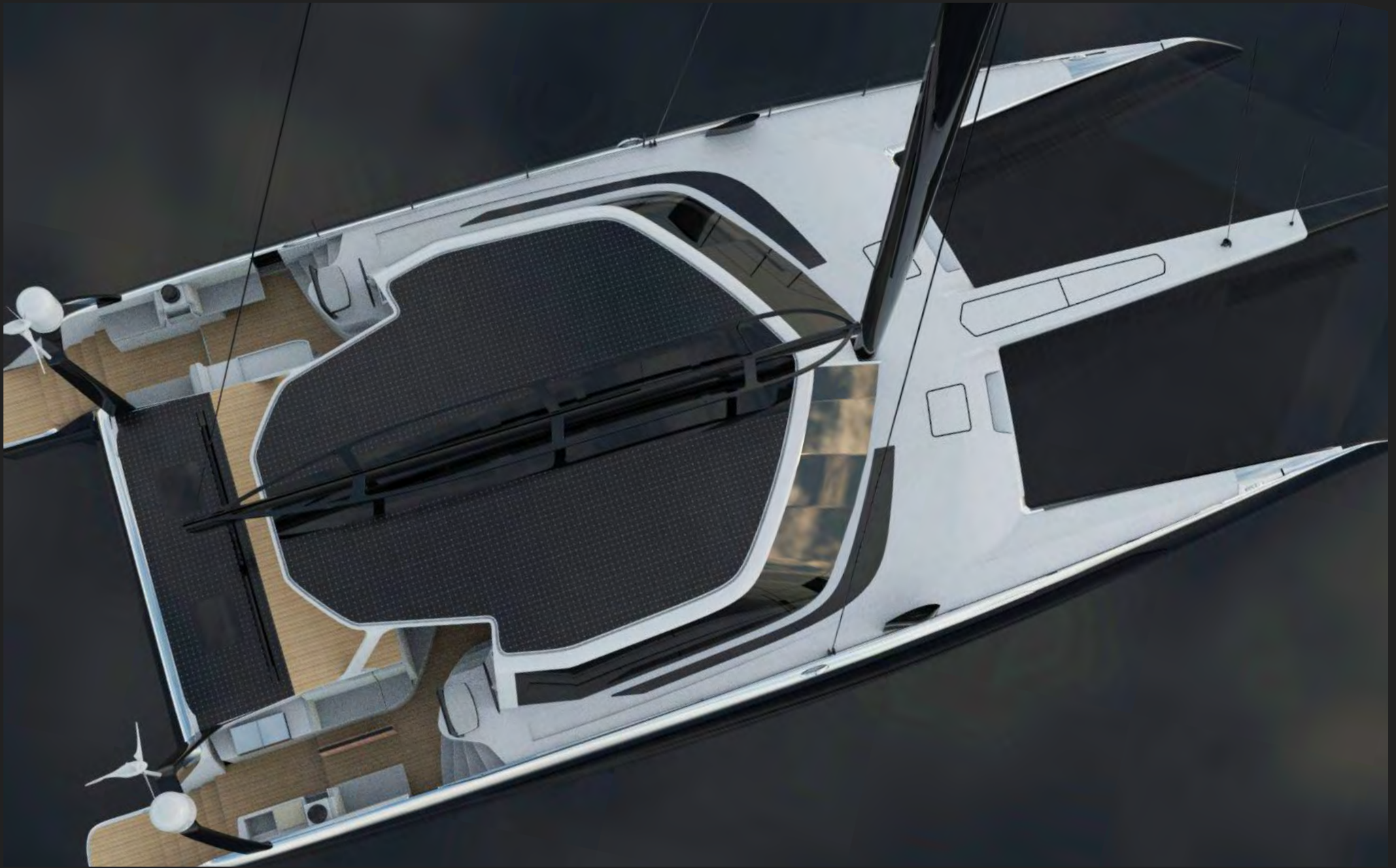
Daedalus D100



DAEDALUS™

Polars Diagram





Daedalus D100



SOLAR POWER

How much?

35 sqm on the Roof

12 sqm on the Garage

41 sqm on the Trampoline

Total: 88 SQM

Type Of Solar Cell?

Semi-Flexible Monocrystalline Cells – 200watt ts/h/sqm - Roof

Semi-Flexible Monocrystalline Cells – 200watt ts/h/sqm - Garage

Flexible Cells – 140 watt ts/h/sqm - Trampoline

How Much Solar Is Produced Per Day?

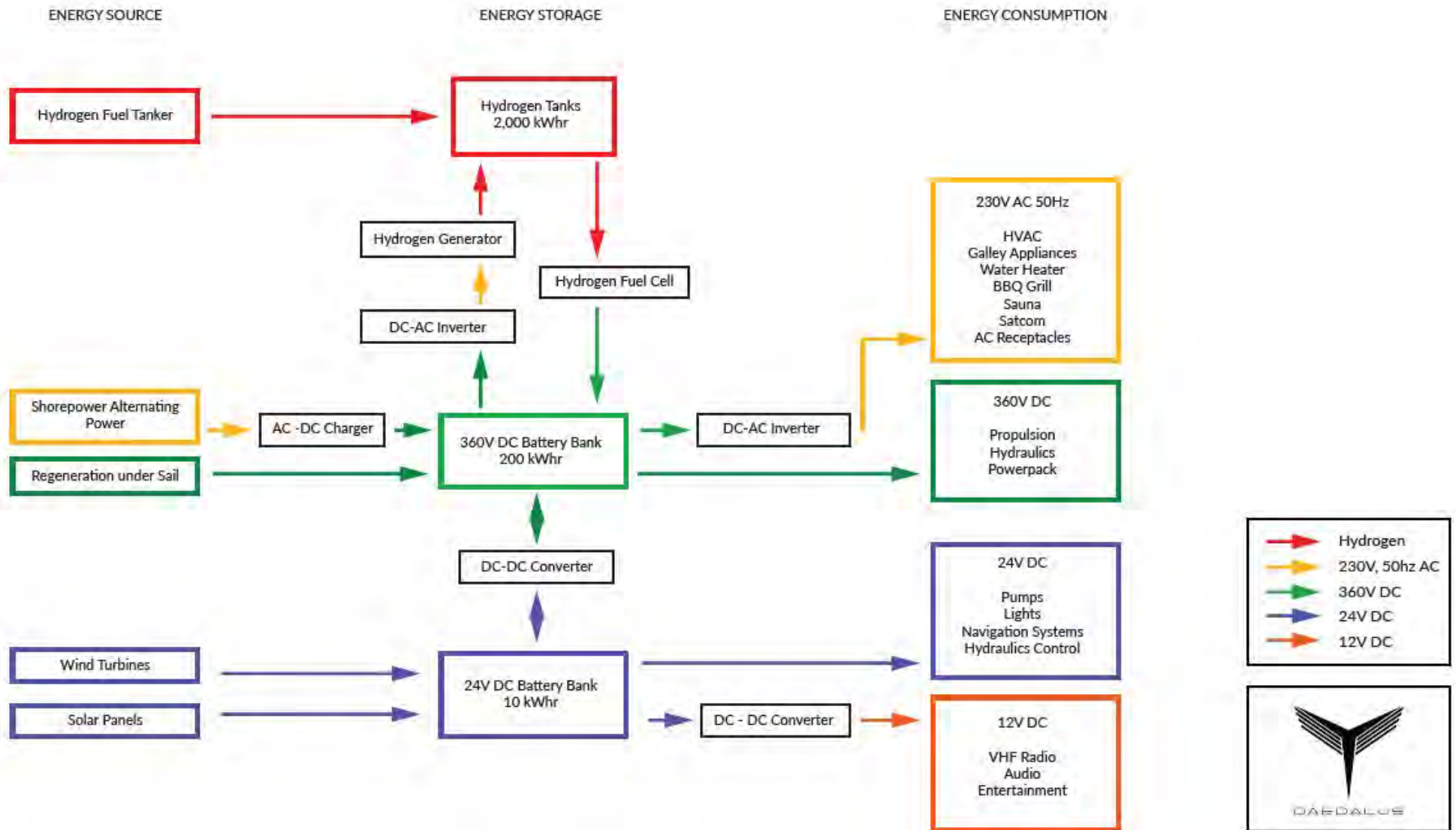
75K wh/d - Roof + Garage

45K wh/d – Trampoline

Total: 120 Kwh/d

[Calculations above based off of 8 hours of sunlight]

Daedalus Energy Overview



HYDRO REGENERATION

We will be able to generate and store enough energy each day from just four to six hours of sailing to achieve energy self-sufficiency.

The Daedalus D100 is a hybrid sailing vessel that will meet her energy needs through hydro-electric regenerative power, solar and wind energy. By combining technologies and innovative solutions we are able to construct a truly energy self sufficient yacht.

Our regenerative electric propulsion concept is simple. Instead of diesel engines, the yacht in motoring mode is propelled by twin 100 kW DC electric motors directly connected to the propeller shafts and drawing energy from large battery banks.

When the yacht is sailing, the energy of the passing water causes the propellers to rotate, which, in turn, causes the electric motors to become generators that recharge the batteries onboard. Depending on the sailing speed up to 30 kW per hour of electrical energy can be created and harnessed.

New advances in propellers, electric propulsion/regeneration motors, battery technologies and electronic controllers make this possible and are available today from our development partner Torqeedo giving us the ability to operate on a carbon neutral basis. Energy to run our yacht will come from regenerative power under sail, solar panels and wind generators.





Daedalus D100





DAEDALUSYACHTS.COM | +1 252-368-9000

PROUDLY MADE IN USA

DISCLAIMER:

The information contained in this brochure is provided as is and without any warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, including but not limited to, implied warranties of satisfactory quality, fitness for a particular purpose and/or correctness. The contents of this brochure are for general information purposes only and do not constitute advice. Daedalus Yachts does not make any warranties or representations regarding the use of the content, details, specifications, or information contained in this brochure in terms of their correctness, accuracy, adequacy, usefulness, timeliness, reliability or otherwise, in each case to the fullest extent permitted by law.

EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at Edgecombe Community College - Tarboro Campus?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.



TIDEWATER RESEARCH STATION



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at Tidewater Research Station?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.



WANCHESE MARINE INDUSTRIAL PARK



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at Wanchese Marine Industrial Park?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.



COASTAL STUDIES INSTITUTE



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at Coastal Studies Institute?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.



BLUE ZONE PROJECT



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this time with the Blue Zone Project panel?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.





Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at TCOM?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

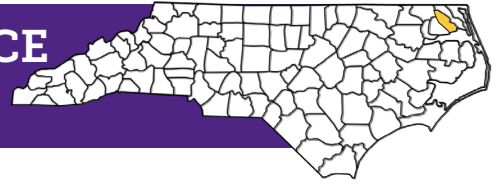
Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.



NORTHEAST ACADEMY FOR AEROSPACE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.



DAEDALUS YACHTS



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at Daedalus Yachts?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.



AGAPE HEALTH



Please complete this hard copy or digital form and submit to Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel before the end of the bus tour.



Name:

What did you learn from this stop at Agape Health?

What ideas do you have to leverage this partnership?

Can you think of anyone else who may be interested in engaging with this partner?

No. Yes.

If yes, please provide the person's name.





Prior to dinner, please take a moment to reflect on the bus tour experience so far and share one idea for a potential new research partnership or concept. This could be something related to your own work or an area of research that someone you know is interested in.

Kindly provide your name and your idea below, and leave this with Purple and Gold Bus Tour program manager Cassie Keel as you head off the bus to dinner.

Name:

Research partnership or idea:



BEAUFORT COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1705 out of Bath County, Beaufort County received its formal name in 1712 from the Duke of Beaufort, Henry Somerset. Washington, named after President George Washington, serves as the county seat. The county also includes North Carolina's oldest town, Bath, which was established in 1705.

Other communities located in Beaufort County include Aurora, Belhaven, Chocowinity, Pantego, River Road, and Washington Park.

Natural water features, including the Tar and Pamlico rivers and the Pamlico Sound, played key roles in developing Beaufort County's early economy. The county served as an early port during the 18th

century and Chocowinity was a major railroad hub of the Norfolk Southern Railway in the early 1900s.

Beaufort County was also the home of ECU's fifth president, John Decatur Messick. Other notable residents include American Revolutionary War Colonel James Bonner, former NBA player Richard Coffey, and Willie Williams, who served as the Vice President and CIO of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Beaufort County's historical and cultural attractions include the Bath Historic District, the Beaufort County Courthouse, and the Bonner House.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
44,481
NC RANKING:
59th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	25%	21%	13%
WHITE	72%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	8%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	47	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	44%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	31%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	47,128	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: **85%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: **44%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$13,048	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
Beaufort County Community College

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: **5**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	10%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	476	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	12%	11%	9%
OBESITY	46%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: **\$56,081**
NC RANKING: **60th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	17%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Nutrien**

BEAUFORT COUNTY



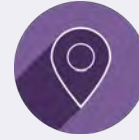
FAST FACTS



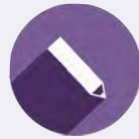
Top Crops:
SOYBEANS



Top Industries:
**TOURISM,
MANUFACTURING**



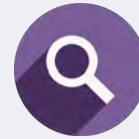
Top Attractions:
**WATERWAYS, AURORA
FOSSIL MUSEUM,
GOOSE CREEK STATE
PARK**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
418



of K-12 Public
Schools:
33



Known for:
**THE STATE'S FIRST
INCORPORATED TOWN,
HISTORIC BATH**

ECU IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Providing **transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates have worked with Beaufort County Economic Development to help tell the story of the county to help attract business and industry to the area. Other interns have worked with nonprofit environmental organizations to monitor the health of the river. Ensuring healthy waterways for recreation and marine life helps **foster the community's well-being**.
- Also providing **transformative experiences and experiential learning**, the RISE29 entrepreneur-focused internship program has placed students with various local businesses to help ensure their success.
- **Expanding access to rural health care and wellness options**, ECU medical and dental schools have partnered with the county to boost telehealth accessibility in the area.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. EMILY YEAGER

The Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy (EOSA) is one way ECU is **increasing the public's engagement with and access to educational offerings**. EOSA alumna Dr. Emily Yeager has conducted community engagement work by asset-mapping the eastern Tar-Pamlico Blue Economy Corridor, which includes communities along the river from Rocky Mount to Washington, NC. She met with local residents to find out what they see as important assets in their community. Inspired by everything that was happening along the waterways in these communities, Yeager's collaborative work provides information for community members and organizations to use for research, marketing, economic development and tourism purposes. The effort will **aid their overall well-being** by enhancing their quality of life.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

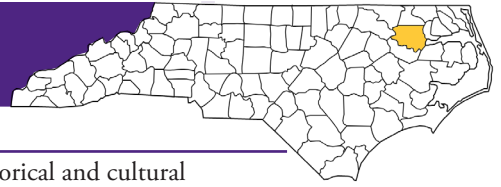


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



BERTIE COUNTY



ABOUT






Established in 1722 from Chowan County, Bertie County was named in honor of two of the first Lord Proprietors of North Carolina, Henry and James Bertie. Windsor serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Bertie County include Aulander, Colerain, Indian Woods, Lewiston Woodville, and Roxobel.

Bertie County includes the Chowan, Roanoke, and Cashie rivers, giving the area rich, fertile farmland. Early land was settled by the Tuscaroras before the 1711 Tuscarora War between the tribe and English settlers.

Bertie County's historical and cultural attractions include the American version of Windsor Castle, Hope Plantation, the Sans Souci Ferry, the King-Bazemore House, and a local zoo. The American version of Windsor Castle was at one time the home of George T. Winston, who later became president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and the University of Texas.

The county hosts several events and festivals, including Chicken on the Cashie, a Fun Day in the Park at Windsor, and the Tee and Sea Festival.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}				
 <p>POPULATION: 16,922 NC RANKING: 85th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	61%	21%	13%
	WHITE	36%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	2%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	46	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	50%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	39%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	18,930	11.1M	337.2M
EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}				
 <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 89% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,325	\$10,791	\$16,080
	 <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 35% NC: 50% US: 68%</p>	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%
		COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		
HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}				
 <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 4 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	6%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	468	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	12%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	43%	34%	42%
ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}				
 <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$41,652 NC RANKING: 92nd *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	21%	13%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: Perdue Farms Incorporated		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

BERTIE COUNTY



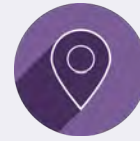
FAST FACTS



Top Crops:
**PEANUTS,
COTTON,
TIMBER**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
AGRICULTURE**



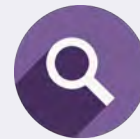
Top Attractions:
**WATERWAY ACCESS,
OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
77



of K-12 Public
Schools:
7



Known for:
BERTIE PEANUTS

ECU IN BERTIE COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning**, an Emergency Management Planning class partnered with the Mid-East Commission and Bertie County Emergency Management in Spring 2020 to work on updating Bertie County's Emergency Operations Plan.
- **Expanding access to rural health care and wellness options**, ECU medical and dental schools have partnered with the county to boost telehealth accessibility in the area.
- Through the SECU Public Fellows internship, students have worked with the Choanoke Area Development Association on several projects including the Energy Share program, with troubled youth, and building workshops for single mothers. The internship program **provides transformative experiences and experiential learning while strengthening the regional workforce and expanding collaboration with community partners.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



MERRILL FLOOD

As Director of the East Carolina Research and Innovation Campus, Merrill Flood has worked with low- and moderate-income families to address availability and accessibility of affordable housing, a key challenge identified in northeastern NC. With long-term sustainability and the **development of our region** in mind, collaborative efforts between ECU and community partners like Bertie County, have resulted in the Choanoke Area HOME Consortium, a multi-county program which recently received a multi-year grant from HUD. This grant allows communities within the consortium to address their housing needs through the regional program, in a coordinated way. With the startup of the program, Flood continues to advise the consortium and provide data and information about resources to **advance regional economic prosperity and sustainability.**

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

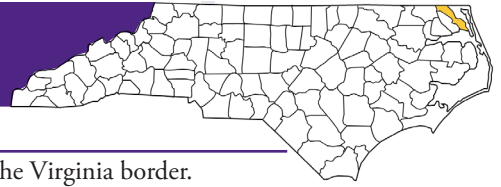


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



CAMDEN COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1777 out of Pasquotank County, Camden County was named for Charles Pratt, First Lord Camden. The city of Camden serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Camden County include Old Trap, Shiloh, and South Mills.


Camden County is an attractive destination for naturalists, featuring a variety of activities for boaters, fishers, and swimmers. The county is home to the Great Dismal Swamp, which covers 175


square miles along the Virginia border.

The preservation is one of the most important sanctuaries for black bears in the eastern United States and serves as a breeding ground for migratory song birds.

Camden County's historical and cultural attractions include the Camden County Courthouse, the Milford Historic House, the Sanderlin-Prichard House, and the Shiloh Baptist Church.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 11,137 NC RANKING: 94th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	12%	21%	13%
	WHITE	83%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	3%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	41	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	29%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	28%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	10,585	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 92% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,624	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	22%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 65% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 3 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	4%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	326	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	20	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	7%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	31%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$79,120 NC RANKING: 6th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	6%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Camden County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

CAMDEN COUNTY



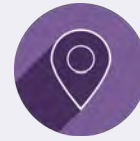
FAST FACTS



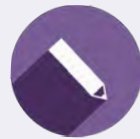
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**EDUCATION,
ECOTOURISM**



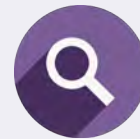
Top Attractions:
**WATERWAYS,
OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
57



of K-12 Public
Schools:
5



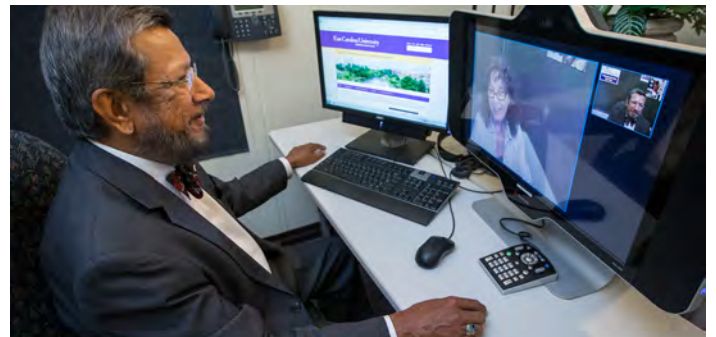
Known for:
GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

ECU IN CAMDEN COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Mara Swindell from Camden County Schools participated in the College of Education's PIRATE leadership academy. The program prepares fellows to be effective principals for innovation and transformation in their schools. This program helps **strengthen the regional workforce by expanding transformative experiences.**
- Dr. Alex Manda researched how Hurricane Florence and previous storms impacted eastern North Carolina farmers and their crops. Manda and his students worked to determine the driving processes of increased salinity in their soil. This work not only **expanded external partnerships with farmers, it helped to advance regional sustainability and rural health.**
- ECU Dental School's service learning center in Elizabeth City helps serve Camden County communities, providing dental services as well as preventive and emergency care. This center helps **expand access to healthcare options and provide partnerships for comprehensive well being.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. SY SAEED

Dr. Sy Saeed is helping to **expand access to health care and wellness options** by making telemedicine and telepsychiatry services more accessible across North Carolina, assuring patients receive timely specialized psychiatric treatment through the North Carolina Statewide Telepsychiatry Program (NC-STeP). NC-STeP connects more than 50 hospital emergency and health departments across the state, including Camden County, to provide psychiatric assessments and consultations through telemedicine technologies. The program seeks to reduce patient length of stay and costs, while improving patient care.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

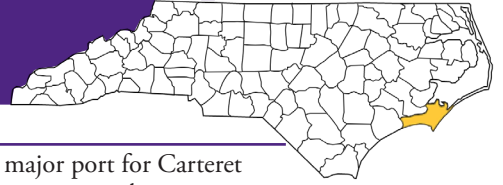


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



CARTERET COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1772 out of Craven County, Carteret County is named in honor of the Earl of Granville and Lord Proprietor of North Carolina, Sir John Carteret. Beaufort, the third oldest town in North Carolina, serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Carteret County include Atlantic Beach, Cedar Point, Emerald Isle, Morehead City, Newport, and Pine Knoll Shores.


Carteret County had a diverse group of early inhabitants, including the native Tuscarora, as well as German, French, Quaker, and Scotch-Irish settlers.


Beaufort served as a major port for Carteret County in its early history, as industries in the county produced tobacco, meat, and fish.

The county also produced pitch, rosin, tar, and turpentine for shipbuilding. In 1858, Morehead City was established as a railroad town, creating the county's greatest economic draw that remains the same today – tourism.

Carteret County's historical and cultural attractions include Cape Lookout National Seashore, Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge, Croatan National Forest, and Fort Macon State Park.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 69,615 NC RANKING: 39th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	6%	21%	13%
	WHITE	90%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	4%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	50	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	41%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	29%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	73,594	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 84% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$12,311	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	73%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 61% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Carteret Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 4 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	5	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	25%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	465	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	10%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	32%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$66,965 NC RANKING: 21st *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	10%	13%	13%
	LARGEST EMPLOYER:	Carteret County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

CARTERET COUNTY



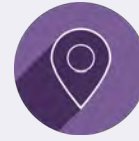
FAST FACTS



Top Crops:
**FRUITS,
VEGETABLES,
GRAINS**



Top Industries:
**TOURISM,
SEAFOOD**



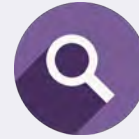
Top Attractions:
**BEACHES, VACATION
RENTALS, RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
315



of K-12 Public
Schools:
17



Known for:
**BEACHES, SEAFOOD,
CAPE LOOKOUT
LIGHTHOUSE**

ECU IN CARTERET COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Students from the Brody School of Medicine created an awareness campaign on the occupational and recreational risk of the sun and its role in skin cancer for children and commercial fishermen in the county. The project **offers transformative experiences to the students while increasing public engagement with the community.**
- **Also offering transformative experiences to students and increasing public engagement with the community,** ECU's Alternative Spring Break Experience has allowed students to work in the county to help address social, economic, political, environmental, spiritual and cultural issues.
- Faculty and students are studying the erosion of Sugarloaf Island, an undeveloped recreational beach off Morehead City's downtown waterfront. The island also serves as a natural defense from severe storm impacts so the work helps **foster comprehensive well-being for the area.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. JAMES DEVENTE

Socioeconomic challenges may have negative impacts on health outcomes, especially in rural areas such as eastern North Carolina. Faculty at ECU are working to stem the effects of poverty on maternal health, providing innovative ways to address weight, access to care, and support for surrounding hospitals. Dr. James deVente has helped lead the perinatal outreach team, which brings the high quality training and best practices of ECU Health to hospitals across the region. The Maternal Outreach Through Telehealth through Rural Sites (MOTHeRS) Project, first offered at clinics in Carteret County, is now expanded to ECU Health and clinics across the region **to collaboration with community and university partners to foster comprehensive well-being** between local physicians and ECU specialists.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



CHOWAN COUNTY



ABOUT

Chowan County, established in 1681, is one of the oldest in North Carolina. It was formed out of the Albemarle Precinct and land that was originally settled by the Weapemeoc tribe. Edenton serves as the county seat and was the site of the Edenton Tea Party – one of the earliest organized political actions by women in United States history.


Other communities located in Chowan County include Hancock, Rockyhock, Ryland, Selwin, Tyner, and Valhalla.



Chowan County's historical and cultural attractions include numerous historical home sites that stand at over 200 years old


and the Chowan County Courthouse – the oldest courthouse in North Carolina.

The county is also home to the second oldest church building in North Carolina, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1736.

The county boasts scenic attractions including Bear Swamp, Bluff Point, Cherry Point, Dillard Millpond, and Edenton Bay. Chowan County also hosts the Edenton Christmas Candlelight Tour, the Edenton Peanut Festival, and the Edenton Tea Party Celebration.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 13,891 NC RANKING: 89th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	35%	21%	13%
	WHITE	62%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	4%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	49	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	28%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	34%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	13,905	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 92% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>  <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 34% NC: 50% US: 68%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$12,916	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	62%	58%	77%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: College of the Albemarle Edenton - Chowan Campus			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 10 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	23%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	464	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	9%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	38%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$51,188 NC RANKING: 66th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	21%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Merherrin Agricultural & Chem Co Inc		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

CHOWAN COUNTY



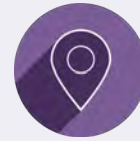
FAST FACTS



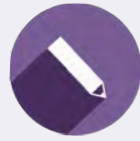
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
COTTON**



Top Industries:
TOURISM



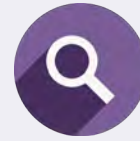
Top Attractions:
**HISTORIC EDENTON,
ROANOKE RIVER
LIGHTHOUSE**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
66



of K-12 Public
Schools:
4



Known for:
**SMALLEST COUNTY
IN NC**

ECU IN CHOWAN COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- The MOTHeRS project, an innovative program combining telemedicine, telepsychiatry and nutrition support, increased access to health care for mothers in more rural areas of the county, improving health outcomes for their babies. The project **expands access to health care and wellness options.**
- ECU's Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health (now ECU Health) launched a Rural Family Medicine Residency Program to equip physicians with specialized training in caring for patients in rural and underserved communities. The program provides medical school graduates experience in caring for patients in under-resourced settings, **strengthening educational opportunities and academic programs to meet the needs of a rural population.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DRS. LESLIE COFIE & ALICE RICHMAN

Through a State Office of Digital Equity and Literacy-funded project, Drs. Leslie Cofie and Alice Richman are working to enhance the capacity of ECU to bridge the digital equity divide for rural and underserved populations in counties such as Chowan and throughout eastern North Carolina. Partnerships with public libraries and community health centers will engage with communities and support the delivery of digital services directly to communities through the deployment of computing devices, hotspots, and internet hubs. This will facilitate technological and educational access and digital literacy, providing community members with skills and resources that can enhance civic, economic, and health resource availability and **strengthen the regional workforce toward economic prosperity and sustainability.**

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

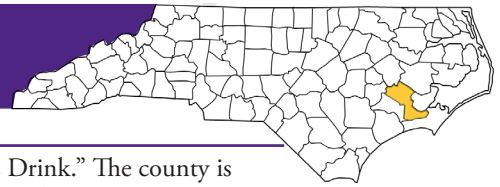


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



CRAVEN COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1712 out of Bath County, Craven County was named for Carolina Lord Proprietor Earl of Craven. New Bern serves as the county seat. In early North Carolina history, New Bern served as the capital of the state until Raleigh became the permanent center of government in 1788.

Other communities located in Craven County include Cove City, Dover, Havelock, and Vanceboro. The county also includes a number of bodies of water, including Catfish Lake, the Neuse River, and the Palmetto Swamp.

Craven County is the home of Pepsi-Cola. Pepsi was developed in New Bern by pharmacist Caleb Bradham who sold the drink to his

customers as "Brad's Drink." The county is also home to the state's first newspaper, the *North-Carolina Gazette*, which was first printed in 1751.

Craven County's historical and cultural attractions include the Atlantic Dance Theater, the Fireman's Museum, the New Bern Civic Theatre, the Tryon Palace historical site, and Union Point Park. The county also hosts the Bridgeton Blueberry Festival, the Chrysanthemum Festival, and the Festival of Colonial Life.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
102,391
NC RANKING:
28th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	22%	21%	13%
WHITE	72%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	7%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	39	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	36%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	24%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	102,434	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **81%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **52%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,605	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	66%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
Craven Community College

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **7**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	6	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	28%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	498	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	10%	11%	9%
OBESITY	34%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$61,676**
NC RANKING: **33th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	14%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Department of Defense**

CRAVEN COUNTY



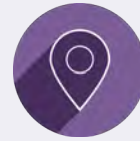
FAST FACTS



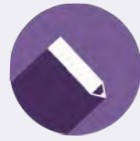
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
TOURISM,
DEPT. OF DEFENSE**



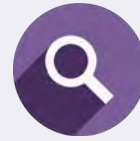
Top Attractions:
**WATER RECREATION,
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN,
TRYON PALACE**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
586



of K-12 Public
Schools:
26



Known for:
**TRYON PALACE,
BEARS**

ECU IN CRAVEN COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- East Carolina Undaunted, the university's hurricane recovery outreach team, **engaged with citizens** when teams were sent to help New Bern residents remove debris and household items damaged by floodwaters, preventing mold and other contaminants from settling in.
- Providing **transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates worked with Interfaith Refugee Ministry, a nonprofit dedicated to helping people rebuild their lives after fleeing their home countries.
- With funding from a three-year mathematics science partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Education, ECU worked with Beaufort, Craven and Wayne county schools to provide content and professional development for teachers in the K-8 physical sciences. Programs like this **help to strengthen the regional workforce and enrich external partnerships**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DRS. LEIGH ATHERTON & CHANDRA SPEIGHT

Data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services show three counties in eastern North Carolina have the highest rates of opioid overdose emergency department visits in the state. To better understand the challenges and successes in implementing peer-delivered recovery treatment strategies in community organizations in counties such as Craven County, Drs. Leigh Atherton and Chandra Speight have teamed up with community organizations such as syringe exchange programs and meal centers to **expand access to health care and wellness options** by working with and training volunteers in treatment engagement methods. Such methods can help ease the stigma and social challenges associated with opioid use and provide treatment strategies to medically-underserved populations where there is a shortage of treatment providers.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

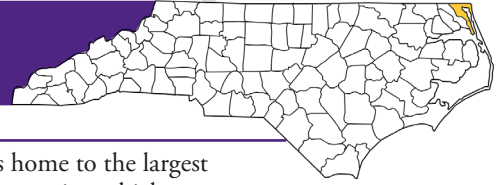


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



CURRITUCK COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1668 as precinct of Albemarle County, Currituck County is named for the Native American word “Coratank,” which means wild geese. The city of Currituck serves as the county seat. Currituck County is the northeastern-most county of North Carolina and was one of the state’s first colonial ports.

Other communities located in Currituck County include Coinjock, Corolla, Knotts Island, Sligo, and Tulls Creek.

Currituck County is home to the largest population of Banker ponies, which descend from Spanish mustangs. Historians believe the mustangs were brought to North Carolina in the 1500s on a Spanish expedition.

The county is also home to the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and is an important vacation spot for sportsmen and outdoor admirers.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
31,593
NC RANKING:
70th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	6%	21%	13%
WHITE	91%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	4%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	43	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	46%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	18%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	29,980	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **87%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **54%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,087	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	29%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
**College of the Albemarle's Regional Aviation
and Technical Training Center**

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **2**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	13%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	275	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	21	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	12%	11%	9%
OBESITY	32%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$82,793**
NC RANKING: **4th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	9%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Currituck County
Board of Education**

CURRITUCK COUNTY



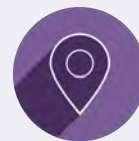
FAST FACTS



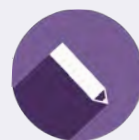
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN, WHEAT**



Top Industries:
**TOURISM,
FISHING**



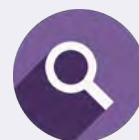
Top Attractions:
**BEACHES, VACATION
RENTALS**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
98



of K-12 Public
Schools:
11



Known for:
WILD HORSES

ECU IN CURRITUCK COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Dr. Susan McRae and students are promoting public participation in the search for the endangered King Rail bird hiding in the marshes of Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge. Collaborations with federal and state entities and increased **public engagement** provides efforts toward producing a **more engaged citizenry**.
- Dr. David Lagomasino is working toward nature-based marsh restoration pilot projects in Currituck Sound, building on a design project to mitigate marsh habitat loss and enhance community resilience to storm surge and flooding. The project **expands and enriches external partnerships while also advancing regional sustainability**.
- Maritime Studies Graduate students and the Coastal Studies Institute are partnering to record six watercraft maintained by the Whalehead Preservation Trust to aid maritime-focused historic preservation. The project **expands external partnerships as well as participation in transformative and experiential learning**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. MIRIAN WATTS

Spotted lanternflies have been prevalent in global news and have now been found in multiple North Carolina counties, including Currituck County. Entomologists like ECU's Dr. Mirian Watts are urging agricultural officials to take heed of the invasive species, which is particularly drawn to the grape crops found in eastern North Carolina. The lanternfly populations could cause economic loss given the need for increased control measures. Crop managers and entomologists are working to find natural predators to develop more effective controls methods the ultimately **safeguard economic prosperity and sustainability**.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



DARE COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1870 and named after Virginia Dare, America's first English-born child in the colonies, Dare County was established out of Tyrrell, Hyde, and Currituck counties. Manteo serves as the county seat, receiving its name from a Croatoan Indian who helped establish the Roanoke Island Colony.

Other communities located in Dare County include Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, Wanchese, Kill Devil Hills, and Southern Shores.

Dare County, part of North Carolina's Outer Banks, has 85 miles of uninterrupted coastline. The county is also home to the infamous Lost Colony, established in 1585 by Sir Walter Raleigh.

The first successful flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright occurred at Kill Devil Hills in 1903. The brother's accomplishment is memorialized at the Wright Brothers National Memorial.

Historical and cultural attractions in Dare County include the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, the North Carolina Aquarium, and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
38,110
NC RANKING:
65th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	3%	21%	13%
WHITE	94%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	7%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	48	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	24%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	39,864	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: **93%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: **58%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,979	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	35%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
College of the Albemarle - Dare County Campus
College of the Albemarle - Roanoke Island Campus

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: **8**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	5	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	31%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	423	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	15	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	13%	11%	9%
OBESITY	28%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: **\$79,742**
NC RANKING: **15th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	7%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Dare County Schools**

DARE COUNTY



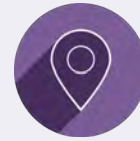
FAST FACTS



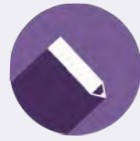
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
HAY, CORN**



Top Industries:
**TOURISM,
FISHING**



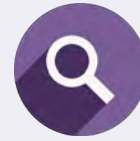
Top Attractions:
**BEACHES, WRIGHT
BROS. MUSEUM,
JOCKEY'S RIDGE**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
174



of K-12 Public
Schools:
10



Known for:
**OUTER BANKS
DESTINATION, LOST
COLONY OF ROANOKE**

ECU IN DARE COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Researchers from the Coastal Studies Institute are working with the Town of Nags Head and volunteer organization Better Beaches OBX to advance the region's sustainability by researching best methods of protecting the community and infrastructure from storms and rising sea levels. The work **expands and enriches external partnerships.**
- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates have served with the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island to provide educational assistance to visitors.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. REIDE CORBETT

Severe coastal erosion along North Carolina's Outer Banks is forcing coastal communities to make hard decisions on coastal development, real estate, and health and safety. Beach nourishment—the placement of sand to restore beach elevation and form—is a soft-engineering response to eroding beaches. Dr. Reide Corbett, working to **expand external partnerships** with the communities of Avon and Buxton, and Coastal Science and Engineering, has been monitoring the impacts of beach nourishment construction projects on the sediment character and infauna in Dare County. Monitoring of such projects helps determine if certain methods afford protection from future events like intense hurricanes. Additionally, engineered beaches such as these become eligible for federal government community assistance funds that aid in short- and long-term maintenance that leads toward **economic sustainability.**

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



DUPLIN COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1750 out of New Hanover County, Duplin County was named for Sir Thomas Hay, Viscount of Dupplin, who served on the Board of Trade and Plantations. Kenansville serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Duplin County include Beulaville, Calypso, Magnolia, Rose Hill, Wallace, and Warsaw. The county is known for its water features, including the Cape Fear River, Maxwell Millpond, Muddy Creek, and Picadilly Bay.

The county's early economy revolved around its tar and pitch industries. Today, Duplin County's agricultural industry sustains

its economy with a focus on cotton, corn, tobacco, and textiles. The county is also home to North Carolina's oldest winery – Duplin Winery – which was established in the 1970s and sells 450,000 cases of wine annually.

Duplin County's historical and cultural attractions include the Cowan Museum, Dickson Farm, Liberty Hall Plantation, and the Kenansville Historic District. The county hosts an annual beach music festival.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
49,520
NC RANKING:
52nd

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	26%	21%	13%
WHITE	70%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	23%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	41	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	32%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	28%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	60,720	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **82%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **30%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,719	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
James Sprunt Community College

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **4**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	2%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	466	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	17%	11%	9%
OBESITY	39%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$49,376**
NC RANKING: **78th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	19%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Butterball, LLC**

DUPLIN COUNTY



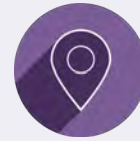
FAST FACTS



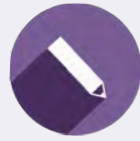
Top Crops:
**SOYBEAN,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**AGRICULTURE,
MANUFACTURING**



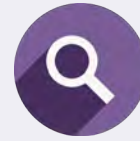
Top Attractions:
**DUPLIN WINERY,
COUNTRY SQUIRE,
RIVER LANDING GOLF
CLUB**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
187



of K-12 Public
Schools:
13



Known for:
**MUSCADINE WINE,
LARGEST WINE
PRODUCER IN NC**

ECU IN DUPLIN COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- ECU's Healthier Lives at School and Beyond School-Based Telemedicine Program **expands access to health care and wellness options**. During COVID, the program used an ECU Transit bus as a mobile unit and visited schools in Duplin County to connect students and staff with quality behavioral health, nutrition, dental and acute medical care services.
- The College of Education's Integrating the Computer Science for All (iCS4All) initiative aimed to improve STEM education to students in three rural school districts, including Duplin County, **enriching external partnerships**.
- ECU's Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health (now ECU Health) launched a Rural Family Medicine Residency Program to equip physicians with specialized training in caring for patients in rural and underserved communities. The program provides medical school graduates experience in caring for patients in under-resourced settings, **strengthening educational opportunities and academic programs to meet the needs of a rural population**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. MATT MILITELLO

ECU has worked with national and regional partners to focus on challenges to rural education in eastern North Carolina. In efforts to provide educational opportunities for all students in counties such as Duplin County, Dr. Matt Militello created the educational leadership program at ECU, focusing on community learning exchanges, where people closest to the issues are brought to the table to discuss solutions. The work **increases public engagement with and access to educational offerings**, while also focusing on assets rather than deficits, highlighting the amazing people and places in the classrooms, schools, and school districts of eastern North Carolina.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

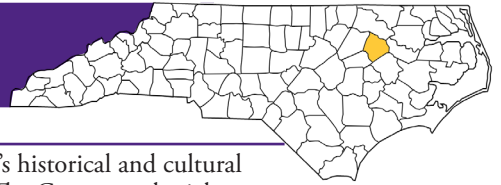


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



EDGECOMBE COUNTY





ABOUT


Established in 1741, Edgemcombe County was named for Richard Edgemcombe, a member of British Parliament and a Lord of Treasury. Tarboro serves as the county seat. It is the state's ninth oldest incorporated town. The oldest town incorporated by African Americans, Princeville, is also found in Edgemcombe County.

The largest city in Edgemcombe County is Rocky Mount, home to Hardee's and Rocky Mount Instruments. Other communities located in Edgemcombe County include Conetoe, Leggett, Macclesfield, Pinetops, Princeville, Sharpsburg, Speed, and Whitakers.

Edgemcombe County's historical and cultural attractions include The Grove, a colonial-era plantation and former residence of American Revolutionary War veteran and North Carolina statesman Thomas Blount, and the historic Tarboro Town Common — a large park that includes several memorials.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 48,832 NC RANKING: 53rd *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	58%	21%	13%
	WHITE	40%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	5%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	42	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	39%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	36%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	49,798	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 77% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,863	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 29% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Edgemcombe Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 3 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	13%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	472	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	20	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	10%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	40%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$46,370 NC RANKING: 94th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	22%	13%	13%
	LARGEST EMPLOYER: City of Rocky Mount			

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

EDGECOMBE COUNTY



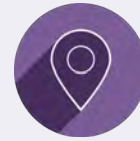
FAST FACTS



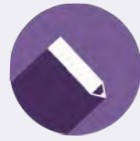
Top Crops:
**COTTON, CORN,
SOYBEANS**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
AGRICULTURE**



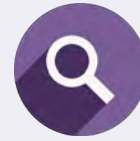
Top Attractions:
**ECOTOURISM,
ROCKY MOUNT MILLS**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
165



of K-12 Public
Schools:
16



Known for:
**TARBORO TOWN
COMMONS, PRINCEVILLE**

ECU IN EDGECOMBE COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Faculty from the School of Communication and the Department of Public Health partnered with AMEXCAN to raise awareness about resources to combat stress, anxiety and depression in the migrant worker population. The project aims to **expand access to wellness options and to foster comprehensive well-being**.
- Students from ECU's Brody School of Medicine led a health assessment screening event at the Edgemcombe County Health Department. The event provided health assessments to the un- and under-insured and provided information and resources for next steps, **improving health access and outcomes for rural communities**.
- An interdisciplinary team at ECU is working to help tell the story of Princeville – the oldest incorporated African American town in the US – and how residents are preserving the town's history after devastating flooding events. Addressing the need for heritage preservation and historical education, faculty are **encouraging more engaged citizens**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



KELLY SPRING & JENNIFER DAUGHERTY

In the 1990s, the predominately Black community of Kingsboro, North Carolina fought to prevent the installation of a hog-processing plant in their area. Decades later, ECU's Academic Library Services has **grown external sponsorship to support community engagement activities** by partnering with the Phoenix Historical Society to document the community-driven efforts to support sustainable land use. The Society, founded to promote the unique history of Edgemcombe County's African American communities, worked with Kelly Spring and Jennifer Daugherty of the Special Collections Division to utilize ECU's unique digital and special collections to produce an open access film, "We Can Do Better," highlighting the community's win for responsible zoning.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

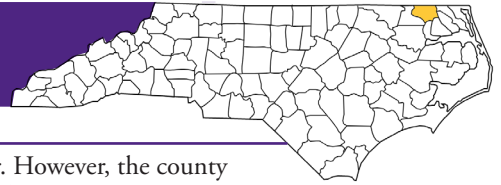


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



GATES COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1779 out of Chowan, Hertford, and Perquimans counties, Gates County was named for Revolutionary War hero General Horatio Gates. Gatesville serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Gates County include Hall, Haslett, Holly Grove, Hunters Mill, Mintonville, and Reynoldson.

Gates County is known for its religious history, including Middle Swamp Baptist Church and Savage's United Methodist Church – two churches that preached to integrated congregations until the

American Civil War. However, the county was also the first in the state to summon a military company to aid the Confederates after North Carolina seceded from the Union.

Gates County's historical and cultural attractions include the Gates County Courthouse, the Great Dismal Swamp Canal, Merchants Millpond State Park — which is famous for its cypress trees — and Reid's Grove School, a historic Rosenwald school.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
10,343
NC RANKING:
96th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	31%	21%	13%
WHITE	66%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	2%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	47	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	27%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	25%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	11,751	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **87%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **36%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$12,253	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	49%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
None

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **0**
NC: 8 | US: 28

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
DENTISTS PER 10,000	0	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	0%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	260	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	15	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	8%	11%	9%
OBESITY	39%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$55,750**
NC RANKING: **29th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
UNEMPLOYED	7%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	14%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Gates County Board of Education**

GATES COUNTY



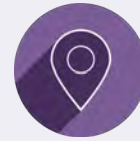
FAST FACTS



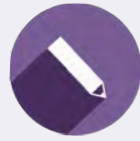
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**AGRICULTURE,
MANUFACTURING,
TIMBER**



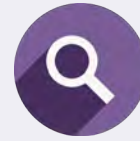
Top Attractions:
**OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
46



of K-12 Public
Schools:
5



Known for:
**GAMELAND, MERCHANTS
MILLPOND STATE PARK**

ECU IN GATES COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Dr. Reide Corbett is working to understand both the evolutionary development and ongoing dynamics of Merchants Millpond State Park to help establish a scientific framework as the baseline for development of long-term management plans. This external partnership helps **advance regional sustainability and increase public engagement with cultural offerings.**
- The NC Agromedicine Institute has received funding to expand the AgriSafe-NC program into Gates County. The program works in counties that rank high in the state for diseases such as diabetes, stroke, and lower lung disease, but also have few health resources. Through AgriSafe-NC, the Institute partners with local health agencies to provide screenings and services to farmers and their families, **expanding access to health care and comprehensive well-being options.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DRS. HAL HOLLOMAN & KAREN JONES

Eight fellows from northeastern North Carolina school districts, including Gates County Public Schools are admitted each year to participate in the PIRATE Leadership Academy, directed by Drs. Hal Holloman and Karen Jones. The program works with superintendents and district leaders to identify proven teachers who may have not previously considered educational leadership and **expand their curricular workforce development and upskilling.** The program, funded by the UNC System North Carolina Principal Fellows Program prepares fellows for innovation, revitalization, advocacy, and transformation in education.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



GREENE COUNTY



ABOUT

Originally named Glasgow County after Secretary of State James Glasgow, Greene County was established in 1791 out of Dobbs County, honoring General Nathanael Greene after Glasgow was charged with making fraudulent land grants. Snow Hill serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Greene County include Hookerton, Maury, and Walstonburg.

The main assault of the Tuscarora War occurred in modern day Greene County, as Colonel Maurice Moore set fire to the Tuscarora's Fort Neoheroke (or Nooherooka) in 1713. The fall of the fort led to

the end of the Tuscarora's resistance against invading white settlers. Today, agriculture remains the largest industry in Greene County, along with livestock production.

Greene County's historical and cultural attractions include the Greene County Courthouse, the Neoheroke Fort Site, and the Zachariah School, a historic Rosenwald School.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
20,530
NC RANKING:
79th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	37%	21%	13%
WHITE	59%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	16%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	40	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	37%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	33%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	20,844	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **89%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **30%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,370	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:	None		

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **3**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	--	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	465	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	11%	9%
OBESITY	39%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$50,320**
NC RANKING: **88th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	23%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:	Department of Adult Corrections		

GREENE COUNTY



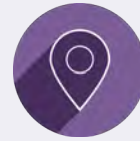
FAST FACTS



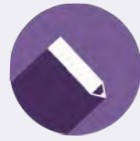
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
HEALTHCARE,
AGRICULTURE**



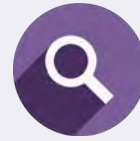
Top Attractions:
**OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
133



of K-12 Public
Schools:
6



Known for:
**CONTENTNEA CREEK,
CUTTER CREEK GOLF
CLUB**

ECU IN GREENE COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Snow Hill's Glean, a subsidiary of Ham's Farms, has used many resources available to small businesses through ECU. Glean reached out to ECU's Department of Nutrition Science through the university's I-Corps program to help develop recipes for their products. The partnership between ECU and Glean provides students taking food science and marketing courses with real-time, real-world examples for economic development and collaborative learning opportunities. Not only did this collaboration **provide transformative experiences to students**, but it also **expanded and enriched external partnerships**.
- **Strengthening educational opportunities to meet the needs of a rural population**, and in response to the growing numbers of native Spanish-speakers in Snow Hill Primary and in Greene County, geography professor Rebecca Torres worked with the school system's director to develop and implement a dual language immersion program, Los Puentes.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DRS. ANGELA LAMSON & JENNIFER HODGSON

For the past 20 years, ECU has partnered with Greene County Health Care to focus on the delivery of behavioral and mental health services through an integrated care model that includes **university, student, and community partners to foster comprehensive well-being**. Drs. Angela Lamson and Jennifer Hodgson's commitment to community engagement and partnerships with Greene County Health Care and Greene County Schools have seen growth in the number of patients receiving care. Continued trust from the patients and improvement in aspects such as biopsychosocial-spiritual health help to sustain and improve future services for this community.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



HALIFAX COUNTY




ABOUT



Established in 1758, Halifax County was named for the Earl of Halifax and President of the British Board of Trade and Plantations, George Montagu-Dunk. The town of Halifax serves as the county seat. Halifax County is best known as the home of the 1776 Halifax Resolves, which allowed North Carolina delegates at the Second Continental Congress to work with other colonial delegates in their efforts to break free from British rule.


Other communities located in Halifax County include Brinkleyville, Butterwood, Conoconnara, Enfield, Faucett, Littleton, Palmyra, Roanoke Rapids, Roseneath, Scotland Neck, and Weldon.

Cash-crops (tobacco, cotton, and others sold commercially) were the basis of a once-thriving economy in Halifax County. Industrialization and advances in transportation, including the railroad, decreased reliance on moving goods by rivers, like the Roanoke, which runs through Halifax County.

Halifax County's historical and cultural sites include natural attractions such as Lake Gaston and Medoc Mountain State Park. Halifax County also hosts Halifax Day, which is a celebration of the Halifax Resolves.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 47,293 NC RANKING: 54th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	54%	21%	13%
	WHITE	40%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	3%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	44	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	44%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	38%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	48,859	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 78% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$16,105	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
 <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 23% NC: 50% US: 68%</p>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Halifax Community College			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	17%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	476	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	18	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	13%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	41%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$41,629 NC RANKING: 99th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	6%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	24%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER: Resers Fine Foods, Inc.				

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

HALIFAX COUNTY



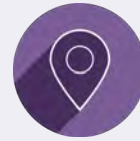
FAST FACTS



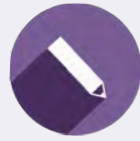
Top Crops:
**COTTON,
SOYBEANS**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
HEALTHCARE**



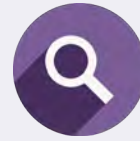
Top Attractions:
**SYLVAN HEIGHTS
BIRD PARK, OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
212



of K-12 Public
Schools:
10



Known for:
**ROANOKE RAPIDS LAKE,
LAKE GASTON**

ECU IN HALIFAX COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning**, the SECU Public Fellows internship partnered an ECU marketing undergraduate with the newly formed nonprofit Weldon in Action which aims to revitalize the small, rural town of Weldon.
- ECU's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences signed an agreement with Halifax Community College (HCC) to offer graduates of HCC's associate in applied sciences degree in criminal justice technology a clear pathway into a bachelor's degree at ECU. The partnership **strengthens educational opportunities and academic programs to meet the needs of a rural population**.
- Answering the call from the SECU Foundation, REDE staff worked to address availability and accessibility of affordable housing, an identified challenge in northeastern NC. With long-term **sustainability and the development of our region** in mind, collaborative efforts resulted in a HOME Consortium that received multi-year grant funding.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. HEIDI BONNER

Working to coordinate the specifics of the partnership, Dr. Heidi Bonner of the Department of Criminal Justice has helped ECU partner with Halifax Community College to create a pathway from the associate in applied sciences degree in criminal justice technology to ECU's Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. The bilateral articulation agreement **expands access to and participation in transformative experiences and experiential learning**, allowing students to take courses that will transfer into the four-year program, removing limits on general education and elective courses. This agreement, and others like it at ECU, ensure students are successful in their transition to four-year degrees, strengthening educational opportunities that strategically place them at the door of their chosen careers.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

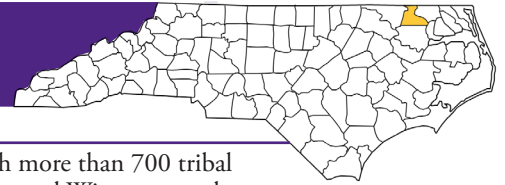


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



HERTFORD COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1759 out of Chowan, Bertie, and Northampton counties, Hertford County was named in honor of Francis Seymour-Conway, the Marquess of Hertford, England. Winton serves as the county seat.



Other communities located in Hertford County include Ahoskie, Como, Harrellsville, and Murfreesboro.


Soil and water resources in Hertford County sustained its early inhabitants. The Tuscarora, Chowanoc, and Meherrin tribes lived in the region and the Meherrin tribe is recognized by the state of

North Carolina with more than 700 tribal members residing around Winton near the Meherrin River.

Hertford County's historical and cultural attractions include the John Wheeler House, the Murfreesboro Historic District, and the William Rea Store in Murfreesboro – one of the oldest commercial buildings in North Carolina. Hertford County is also home to Chowan University, established in 1848.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 19,453 NC RANKING: 81st *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	61%	21%	13%
	WHITE	36%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	4%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	42	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	39%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	23,349	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 82% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$12,435	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
	 <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 28% NC: 50% US: 68%</p>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Roanoke-Chowan Community College Chowan University		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 8 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	10%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	441	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	10%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	41%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$46,196 NC RANKING: 97th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	20%	13%	13%
		LARGEST EMPLOYER: Duck Thru		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

HERTFORD COUNTY



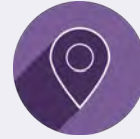
FAST FACTS



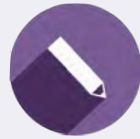
Top Crops:
**COTTON,
SOYBEANS**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY**



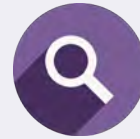
Top Attractions:
**WATERWAY
ACCESS, OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
91



of K-12 Public
Schools:
7



Known for:
CHOWAN RIVER

ECU IN HERTFORD COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- ECU's Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health (now ECU Health) launched a Rural Family Medicine Residency Program to equip physicians with specialized training in caring for patients in rural and underserved communities. The program provides medical school graduates first-hand experience in caring for patients in under-resourced settings, **strengthening educational opportunities and academic programs to meet the needs of a rural population.**
- Faculty in ECU's Division of Health Sciences collaborated on grant-funded efforts to help increase patient opportunities for telehealth care by leveraging broadband and cellular access in rural northeastern NC communities, including Hertford County. This work allowed ECU to **expand access to health care and wellness options** for the area.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. ABBY SCHWARTZ

Access to health care and other resource centers is a major challenge for low-income adults in eastern North Carolina. Programs such as Project TRIP provide transportation for vulnerable populations to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other centers in Hertford County. In working to expand its services, Project TRIP is partnered with Dr. Abby Schwartz in the ECU School of Social work to assess and develop solutions for this proposed expansion. The evaluation study examines efficiency and impact, barriers and facilitators to transportation, and a cost benefit analysis for **sustainability of services for the increase of health and well-being of disadvantaged rural adults.**

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

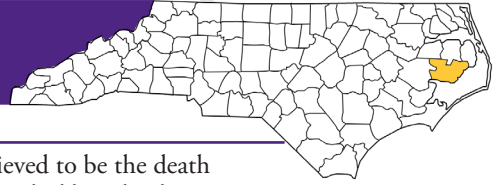


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



HYDE COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1705 out of Bath County, Hyde County was chartered as Wickham Precinct before becoming Hyde Precinct seven years later. The precinct's name was officially changed to Hyde County in 1739 after Bath County was abolished. Swan Quarter serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Hyde County include Engelhard, Fairfield, Germantown, Last Chance, Nebraska, Ocracoke, Scranton, and Stumpy Point.


While Hyde County's population is just 5,757, the county draws many tourists. Ocracoke hosts the largest number of visitors, as tourists come to see its lighthouse and location on the Outer Banks.

Ocracoke is also believed to be the death place of famed pirate Blackbeard, who used North Carolina's waterways to hide from the British Navy.

The county is also recognized for its four wildlife refuges, including the Alligator River, Mattamuskeet, Pocosin Lakes, and Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge. Fishing, boating, and other recreational activities are prevalent in the county.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 4,607 NC RANKING: 99th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	29%	21%	13%
	WHITE	68%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	9%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	47	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	43%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	22%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	4,975	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 91% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$20,479	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 49% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 4 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	0	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	90%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	473	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	19	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	20%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	37%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$43,724 NC RANKING: 79th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	6%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	30%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Hyde County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

HYDE COUNTY



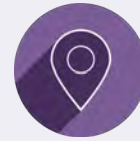
FAST FACTS



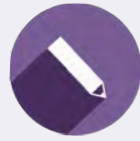
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**AGRICULTURE,
RETAIL,
MANUFACTURING**



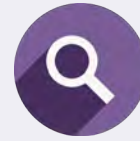
Top Attractions:
**WATERWAY
ACCESS, OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
31



of K-12 Public
Schools:
3



Known for:
**LAKE MATTAMUSKEET,
POCOSIN LAKES
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
RESCUE**

ECU IN HYDE COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Through community-engaged research and engineering design, Dr. Randall Etheridge, an associate professor in the department of engineering, collaborated with Hyde County Government in addressing flooding and water quality issues facing the community near Lake Mattamuskeet. Etheridge's collaboration with Hyde County helps to **foster comprehensive well-being for the rural community**.
- **Expanding and enriching external partnerships**, students and faculty with ECU's Master of Public Administration partnered with RISE29 program and Hyde County to collect data to update their strategic economic development report.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. ROB TEMPEL

Access to dental health professionals is a major challenge for eastern North Carolina. To overcome this barrier, ECU's Associate Dean for Extramural Clinical Practices, Dr. Rob Tempel has helped facilitate partnerships with local health and government agencies to create the Hyde County Outreach Clinic, **expanding access to high-tech oral health care and dental education** to Hyde County, one of three counties in the state with no practicing dentists. Not only does this relationship provide students with tremendous experience, but the clinic provides restorative care to approximately 16 patients per month. The partnership continues to evolve, offering live, synchronous appointments to diagnose oral health problems, as well as monthly in person care; the innovative model offers solutions not only to oral health but also challenges like transportation.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

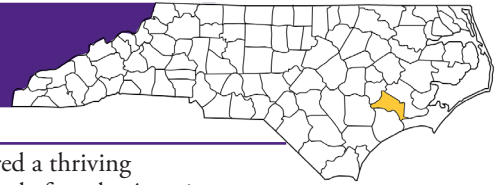


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



JONES COUNTY




ABOUT


Established in 1779 out of Craven County, Jones County was named for aristocrat and anti-federalist Willie Jones. Trenton serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Jones County include Maysville, Pleasant Hill, and Pollocksville. The county is also known for the Trent River, named after the Trent River in England; the Great Dover Swamp, which covers much of the northern portion of the county; and Hofmann Forest, the nation's largest forest laboratory.

Jones County featured a thriving agricultural economy before the American Civil War, but many farms and plantations were destroyed during the war. Tobacco and lumber farmers carry on Jones County's farming tradition today.

Jones County's historical and culture attractions include the Foscue Plantation House, the Grace Episcopal Church, the John Franck House, and the Lavender-Barrus House.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 9,401 NC RANKING: 97th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	30%	21%	13%
	WHITE	66%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	5%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	48	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	49%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	32%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	10,012	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 95% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$15,120	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 48% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	0	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	0%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	506	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	21	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	15%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	41%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$53,053 NC RANKING: 72nd *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	3%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	18%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Jones County Board of Education		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

JONES COUNTY



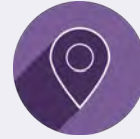
FAST FACTS



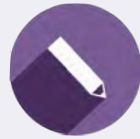
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**HEALTHCARE,
MANUFACTURING**



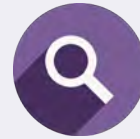
Top Attractions:
**OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
39



of K-12 Public
Schools:
6



Known for:
**FORESTS, FARMLAND,
PASSTHROUGH TO
COASTAL DESTINATIONS**

ECU IN JONES COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- The College of Education's Integrating the Computer Science for All (iCS4All) initiative aimed to improve STEM education and introduce computational thinking to students in three rural school districts, including Jones County Schools. The program **strengths educational opportunities to meet the needs of a rural population.**
- **Expanding access to health care and wellness options**, ECU School of Dental Medicine developed a program that provides oral health care and dental hygiene education to schoolchildren in Jones County, regardless of insurance.
- Providing **transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates worked with the Jones County Economic Development on a revitalization plan for recovery from hurricane as well as their business directory.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



MERRILL FLOOD & DR. MISUN HUR

The development of a bypass around Maysville, North Carolina to ease the flow of traffic for those travelling to coastal destinations, created challenges to business sustainability in the small town. But with the influence of one assignment in a planning studio class, the Jones County town is now celebrating an American Rescue Plan Grant to revitalize its main street. The service-oriented mission of ECU faculty such as Merrill Flood and Dr. Misun Hur, have seen the creation of programs and community partnerships aimed at improving and advancing communities, while also connecting students to real word experience. Student project deliverables and program curriculum have aided local communities in showcasing the potential of these communities for revitalization and development that **advance regional economic prosperity and sustainability.**

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



LENOIR COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1791 out of Dobbs County, Lenoir County was named for Speaker of the Senate and Revolutionary War soldier William Lenoir. Kinston serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Lenoir County include Deep Run, Dawson, Institute, Graingers, La Grange, and Pink Hill.


Lenoir County played a significant role in the history of the American Civil War, hosting the Battle of Kinston in 1862 and the Battle of Wyse Fork in 1865. Artifacts from the CSS Neuse,

a Confederate ironclad gunboat that was purposely sunk in the Neuse River to avoid Union capture, are also available to tour in Kinston.

Lenoir County's historical and cultural attractions include the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot, the La Grange Presbyterian Church, and the Lenoir County Courthouse.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 54,895 NC RANKING: 48th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	42%	21%	13%
	WHITE	55%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	8%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	43	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	38%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	34%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	56,175	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 84% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,023	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 36% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Lenoir Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	13%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	516	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	20	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	11%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	41%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$43,063 NC RANKING: 83rd *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	22%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Sanderson Farms, Inc.		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

LENOIR COUNTY



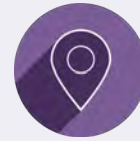
FAST FACTS



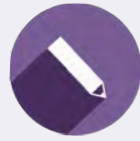
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**HEALTHCARE,
MANUFACTURING**



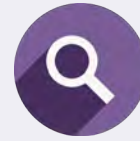
Top Attractions:
**CHEF AND THE
FARMER, BASEBALL**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
340



of K-12 Public
Schools:
17



Known for:
**REVITALIZED
DOWNTOWN KINSTON**

ECU IN LENOIR COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates have worked with Hope Restorations to build a customer relationship management system for the non profit and a 5-year budget plan and the Lenoir County Economic Development on a subdivision restructuring plan.
- ECU's Collaborative Action in Rural Education (CARE) Corps supports eastern North Carolina residents through resiliency, teaching, and counseling. CARE Corp, housed in the College of Education's Rural Education Institute, provides tutoring, support for classroom teachers and students, and mental health services in specific high-need areas in Lenoir County. The immersive program **expands access to transformative learning** while also **strengthening the workforce and educational opportunities to meet the needs of the rural population.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. TAREK ABDEL-SALAM

Industrial companies are seeking innovative ways to reduce waste and conserve energy, while progressing in the fields of electronics, manufacturing, packing, and the like. Under the direction of engineering professor Dr. Tarek Abdel-Salam, student interns from ECU's Center for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering (CSE3) aid businesses like Smithfield Packing in Kinston with scholarly, applied research and consultancy in sustainable energy development, pollution prevention, and natural resource conservation. The innovative program partners with regional manufacturing facilities, providing students with **expanded transformative experiences with curricular workforce and skills development**, and companies with access not only to innovations in sustainable environmentally conscious business practices, but also a pool of reliable and informed future employees.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

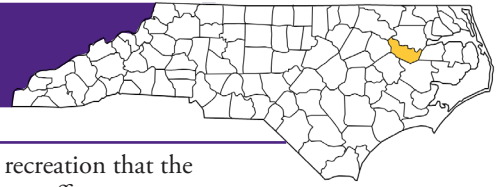


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



MARTIN COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1774 out of Halifax and Tyrrell counties, Martin County was named for Josiah Martin, the last royal governor of North Carolina. Williamston serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Martin County include Bear Grass, Darden, Everetts, Gold Point, Hamilton, Hassell, Jamesville, Oak City, Parmele, and Robersonville.

The Roanoke River served as an important trade route through Martin County, allowing the county's industries in tar, pitch, turpentine, forest, and meat products to grow the county in its early development. Today, the county sees an influx of naturalists for

hunting and fishing recreation that the river and regional dams offer.

Martin County's historical and cultural attractions include Fort Branch, a renovated Confederate fort, the Darden Hotel, the Martin County Courthouse, and the Green Memorial Church, which in 1963 held civil rights "Freedom Rallies" for 32 days featuring over 400 protesters.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
21,447
NC RANKING:
78th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	42%	21%	13%
WHITE	55%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	4%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	47	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	40%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	36%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	22,148	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **69%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **30%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$13,223	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	86%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
Martin Community College

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **5**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	4%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	521	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	22	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	9%	11%	9%
OBESITY	38%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$44,799**
NC RANKING: **87th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	21%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Martin County Board of Education**

MARTIN COUNTY



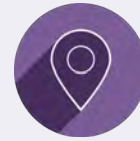
FAST FACTS



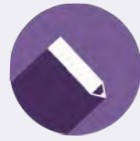
Top Crops:
**COTTON,
SOYBEANS**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
HEALTHCARE**



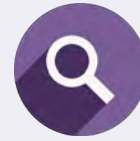
Top Attractions:
**OUTDOOR
RECREATION,
ROANOKE RIVER**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
144



of K-12 Public
Schools:
10



Known for:
**BOB MARTIN EASTERN
AGRICULTURAL CENTER**

ECU IN MARTIN COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- REDE staff answered the call from the SECU Foundation to help find solutions to address the availability and accessibility of affordable housing in northeastern NC. This initiative helped **expand and enrich our external partnerships**. The consortium, which includes Martin County, will help **advance regional economic prosperity and sustainability**.
- Faculty in ECU's Division of Health Sciences collaborated on grant-funded efforts to increase patient opportunities for telehealth care by leveraging broadband and cellular access in rural northeastern NC communities, including Martin County. This work allowed ECU to **expand access to health care and wellness options** for the area.
- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning**, the SECU Public Fellows internship partnered an ECU marketing undergraduate with the Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. SUZANNE LAZORICK

During his time at ECU, alumnus Tim Hardison learned that his fellow residents of Martin County faced some of the shortest life expectancies in North Carolina. To help this rural county face the challenges of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, Hardison, along with current ECU faculty Dr. Suzanne Lazorick, developed a web-based curriculum which combines physical activity and nutritional education with real time data management. The Motivating Adolescents with Technology to CHOOSE Health (MATCH) Wellness program now reaches middle school students across the state in the prevention of childhood obesity. The success of the **university-community partnered comprehensive well-being** program has prompted state and federal support and shown consistent and significant return on investment, with students sharing the goals of the program with their families and implementing the practices into adulthood.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

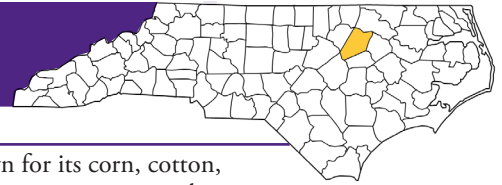


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



NASH COUNTY




ABOUT


Established in 1777 from Edgecombe County, Nash County was named for Francis Nash, a general who served under George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Nash was killed in the Battle of Germantown in 1777 before the county was officially created. Nashville serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Nash County include Bailey, Castalia, Middlesex, Red Oak, and Spring Hope. The county shares three towns with other counties, including Rocky Mount (Edgecombe), Sharpsburg (Edgecombe and Wilson), and Zebulon (Wake). Other natural features in the county include the Tar River, the White Oak Swamp, and the Moccasin, Swift, and Deer Branch creeks.

The county is known for its corn, cotton, cucumber, livestock, sweet potato, soybean, and tobacco production. Nash County is also the home of North Carolina Wesleyan College, which was established in 1956 and serves 1,500 students.

Nash County's historical and cultural attractions include the Country Doctor Museum, the Nash County Historical Association, The Imperial Center for the Arts and Sciences, and the Tank Theatre.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 95,551 NC RANKING: 30th <small>*ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</small></p>	BLACK	41%	21%	13%
	WHITE	55%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	7%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	42	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	36%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	35%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	98,652	11.1M	337.2M

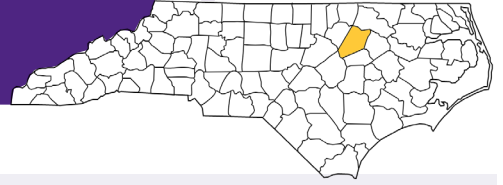
		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 85% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,189	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	77%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 31% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Nash Community College North Carolina Wesleyan College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 6 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	5	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	14%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	415	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	18	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	11%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	38%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$56,770 NC RANKING: 40th <small>*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</small></p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	15%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER: Hospira, Inc.				

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

NASH COUNTY



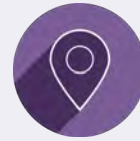
FAST FACTS



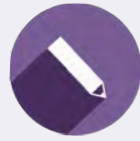
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
SWEET POTATOES**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
AGRICULTURE**



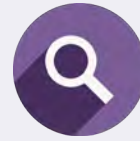
Top Attractions:
**ROCKY MOUNT MILLS
DISTRICT, COUNTRY
DOCTOR MUSEUM**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
465



of K-12 Public
Schools:
27



Known for:
**BATTLE PARK, TAR RIVER
TRAIL AND PADDLE TRAIL**

ECU IN NASH COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Increasing public engagement and access to cultural offerings**, ECU's Country Doctor Museum partnered with students from Southern Nash High for an oral history event held for county residents. The event was held in an effort to preserve local history as part of an ongoing class project to create a digital history archive for the museum.
- ECU's Brody School of Medicine and the School of Dental Medicine led a health screening event in Rocky Mount. **Expanding access to wellness options**, the event offered health and dental disease assessments to the un- and under-insured and provided information and resources for next steps.
- ECU's Center for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering offers pollution prevention-focused internships where students work in areas like a repurposed textile facility in Rocky Mount. The **experiential and transformative learning experiences also help strengthen the regional workforce and expand external partnerships.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DRS. SALMA SYED & JARED CARTER-DAVIS

The East Carolina University HIV program, funded through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, has been the primary provider of comprehensive HIV medical care to rural populations in eastern North Carolina since the 1980s. Expanded programs in counties such as Nash County, are also working to provide targeted care to HIV-positive women, infants, children, and youth. Faculty like Drs. Salma Syed and Jared Carter-Davis are working with **community advisory boards and patients to improve community-based education and prevention programs**, non-traditional HIV counseling, and increased testing for minority populations. Clinics at the Brody School of Medicine East Carolina University-Division of Infectious Disease (ECU-DID) offer services to the insured and uninsured that include medical care, substance abuse and mental health counseling, medication treatment adherence, and case management.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

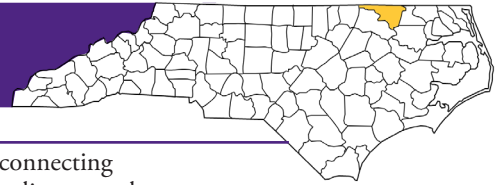


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1741 out of Bertie County, Northampton County was created for travelers' convenience. Those living in the area needed better access to a courthouse. Northampton County was created to serve that need. It received its name from James Compton, Earl of Northampton.

Jackson has served as the county seat since its incorporation in 1823. Jackson was named after the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson. Other communities located in Northampton County include Gaston, Garysburg, Margarettsville, Rich Square, Seaboard, Severn, and Vulture.

Northampton County was home to the first railroad to cross into the state. The track was constructed in 1833 by the Petersburg

Railroad Company, connecting Northampton to a trading post along the Roanoke River. The county is also known for its horse racing and breeding. Mowfield Plantation in Jackson sheltered the state's greatest thoroughbred horse, Sir Archie, who went on to sire racing greats Boston, Lexington, Man O'War, and Timoleon.

Northampton County's historical and cultural attractions include the Cedar Grove Quaker Meetinghouse, the Jackson Museum, the Lee-Grant Farm, the Northampton Memorial Library, and the Peebles House. The county hosts the annual Northampton County Farm Festival.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
16,715
NC RANKING:
86th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	58%	21%	13%
WHITE	40%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	2%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	51	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	37%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	18,529	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: **80%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: **32%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$17,160	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
None

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: **2**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	12%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	461	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	12%	11%	9%
OBESITY	41%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: **\$45,698**
NC RANKING: **96th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	19%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Lowes Home Centers, Inc.**

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



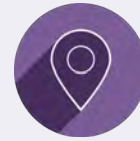
FAST FACTS



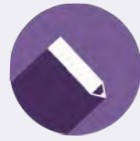
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**HEALTHCARE,
MANUFACTURING**



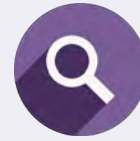
Top Attractions:
**WATERWAY
ACCESS, OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
44



of K-12 Public
Schools:
6



Known for:
**ROANOKE RIVER, LAKE
GASTON, I-95 NC/VA
BORDER**

ECU IN NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Faculty in ECU's Division of Health Sciences collaborated on grant-funded efforts to help increase patient opportunities for telehealth care by leveraging broadband and cellular access in rural northeastern NC communities, including Northampton County. This work allowed ECU to **expand access to health care and wellness options** for the area.
- REDE staff answered the call from the SECU Foundation to help find solutions to address the availability and accessibility of affordable housing in northeastern NC. This initiative helped **expand and enrich our external partnerships**. The consortium, which includes Bertie County, will help advance regional economic prosperity and sustainability.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. DOYLE "SKIP" CUMMINGS

Telehealth in the home setting is a challenge in rural counties where access to broadband internet is highly limited. This is the focus of the collaborative work between ECU's Division of Health Sciences and community partners that aims to **expand access to telehealth care** by leveraging broadband and cellular access in target rural communities like Northampton County. Dr. Doyle "Skip" Cummings and team are working to provide selected aspects of primary medical care, dental evaluation, behavioral health, nutrition and pharmacy counseling, and chronic disease management via telehealth into the home setting. The expected outcome is that increased access to telehealth care will improve access to both local and regional providers, save costs, and produce clinical measures comparable to face-to-face care.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



ONSHOW COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1734 out of Carteret and New Hanover counties, Onslow County was named for Speaker of the British House of Commons Sir Arthur Onslow. The area was settled by Europeans after the Tuscarora War of 1711. Jacksonville serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Onslow County include Holly Ridge, North Topsail Beach, Richlands, Sneads Ferry, and Swansboro. The county is also home to Camp Lejeune – a U.S. Marine Corps Base that spans 150,000 acres and has an approximate population approaching 114,000.

Onslow County's history has been marked by several military moments, including county residents participating in quelling a Tory uprising in 1776 in Wilmington, N.C.; an 1820s slave rebellion that saw eight slaves attempt to seek freedom in the Onslow County swamps; the manufacturing of ships for the War of 1812; and the growth of Camp Lejeune during World War II.

Onslow County's historical and cultural attractions include two large antebellum plantation homes – the Palo Alto and Avirett-Stephens plantations – and Alum Spring, a historic sulfur spring located at Catherine Lake.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
213,676
NC RANKING:
13th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	16%	21%	13%
WHITE	76%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	2%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	27	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	39%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	22%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	220,451	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **91%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **49%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,150	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	44%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
Coastal Carolina Community

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **3**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	30%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	538	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	9%	11%	9%
OBESITY	34%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$59,976**
NC RANKING: **41st**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	13%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Department of Defense**

ONslow COUNTY



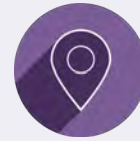
FAST FACTS



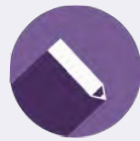
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**DEPT. OF
DEFENSE, RETAIL,
HEALTHCARE**



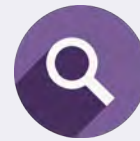
Top Attractions:
**BEACH AND RIVER
ACCESS, DINING &
SHOPPING**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
818



of K-12 Public
Schools:
42



Known for:
**MARINE CORPS BASE
CAMP LEJEUNE**

ECU IN ONSLOW COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, an undergraduate worked with One Place, a nonprofit organization in Jacksonville that provides educational, prevention and intervention resources for families and youth. The computer science-turned psychology major helped the nonprofit successfully transfer all donor data to a new program, ensuring messages would continue to reach the donors vital to the organization's work.
- ECU has worked with the United States Marine Corps and the Camp Lejeune MakerSpace in Jacksonville to provide Marines with additive manufacturing training. This short term program **expanded curricular workforce development aimed at workforce upskilling and reskilling.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. STEVE CULVER

Foraminifera—tiny single-celled animals with shells—are widely used to reconstruct paleoenvironments. Dr. Steve Culver also uses them to define stratigraphic sequences in Onslow Bay, North Carolina. Using specimens from areas like Bear Island, Culver and students test hypotheses related to sediment transport, particularly related to hurricane-driven changes. Distributions of foraminifera on North Carolina's barrier islands can indicate past environmental changes and help predict the range of changes possible in the face of climate warming and sea level rise that can be mitigated to **advance regional sustainability.**

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



PAMLICO COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1872 out of Craven and Beaufort counties, Pamlico County was named for the Pamlico Sound which borders the county to the east. Bayboro serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Pamlico County include Arapahoe, Hobucken, Mesic, Oriental, and Vandemere. Other natural features in Pamlico County include Bay City Pocosin, Cedar Island, and Dawson Creek.

Fishing and sailing helped grow Pamlico County as a tourist destination, with Oriental earning the "Sailing Capital of North Carolina" moniker. The county hosts numerous boat races each year,

including the Oriental Cup Regatta. The county is also known for helping establish the North Carolina Public Schools transportation system, becoming one of the first counties to offer motorized bus transportation.

Pamlico County's historic and cultural attractions include the Grist Mill, the Pamlico County Drama Club, and Reel Cotton Gin. The county also hosts the annual Pamlico County Croaker Festival in honor of the region's fishers.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
12,423
NC RANKING:
91st

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	19%	21%	13%
WHITE	78%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	4%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	54	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	45%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	26%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	13,302	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **92%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **53%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$16,250	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	71%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
Pamlico Community College

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **6**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	2	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	6%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	474	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	10%	11%	9%
OBESITY	34%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$55,867**
NC RANKING: **47th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	14%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **YMCA**

PAMLICO COUNTY



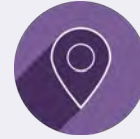
FAST FACTS



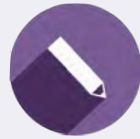
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**TOURISM,
AGRICULTURE**



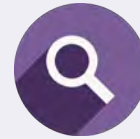
Top Attractions:
**WATER ACCESS,
OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
54



of K-12 Public
Schools:
4



Known for:
MINNESOTT BEACH

ECU IN PAMLICO COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning** opportunities, the RISE29 entrepreneurship internship program has placed students with various local businesses to help ensure their success. Students worked with a yacht sales company launching a marina and a newly opened RV park and campground. The students' work will help **advance the area's economic prosperity and sustainability**.
- Dr. Eric Wade with the Department of Coastal Studies explores the collective decisions of various stakeholders over resources in coastal systems, particularly the drive toward resilience. He is working with fisherman and their families, as well as resource managers in Pamlico County to understand the responses to climate change by examining the resources, capabilities, and assets that support them to adapt to change. This project not only **expands external partnerships** but also aids in **advancing regional sustainability**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. LAUREN SASTRE

Health disparities for groups in eastern North Carolina include both social determinants such as food insecurity, as well as behavioral risk factors such as diet and physical activity. Dr. Lauren Sastre, founder and director of the Farm to Clinic (F2C) initiative has focused on these issues and worked with community partners such as Food Lion Feeds and the Duke Endowment to create the Fresh Start Program mobile teaching kitchen and pantry. Fully functional with commercial food storage and preparation equipment and educational supplies, the mobile kitchen is designed to **strengthen opportunities and programs to meet the needs of a rural population**, by improving access to food and nutrition for patients like those at the Hope Clinic in Bayboro. Not only does the transformative program provide fresh, local produce, patients are also guided to learn sustainable skills directly from ECU nutrition science students, who fully engage with the community in research and programming.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



PASQUOTANK COUNTY




ABOUT



Established in 1668 from the Albemarle Precinct, Pasquotank County gets its name from the Native American word “pask-e’tan-ki” meaning “where the current divides the fork.” The county is defined by its waterways and is bordered by the Pasquotank and Little rivers.


Elizabeth City serves as the county seat. Other communities located in Pasquotank County include Morgans Corner, Nixonton, and Weeksville.

The county is home to Elizabeth City State University, established in 1891, which enrolls about 1,350 students per year.

Pasquotank County is known for its shipping, boating, fishing, and diving industries, while serving as an Intracoastal Waterway hub. Local attractions include the Arts of the Albemarle Center, the Dixie Land Speedway in Elizabeth City, and the Elizabeth City State University Khan Planetarium.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 41,444 NC RANKING: 62nd *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	37%	21%	13%
	WHITE	59%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	6%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	39	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	38%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	29%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	39,734	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 76% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>  <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 39% NC: 50% US: 68%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,798	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	72%	58%	77%
	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: College of the Albemarle - Elizabeth City Campus Elizabeth City State University			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 8 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	24%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	380	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	26	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	12%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	39%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$61,411 NC RANKING: 56th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	12%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER: Sentara Internal Medicine Physician				

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

PASQUOTANK COUNTY



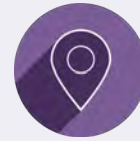
FAST FACTS



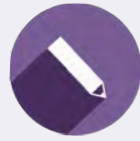
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**DEPT. OF DEFENSE/
AEROSPACE,
EDUCATION,
HEALTHCARE**



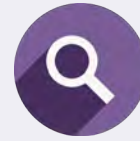
Top Attractions:
**WATER ACCESS,
OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
140



of K-12 Public
Schools:
13



Known for:
**COAST GUARD AIR
STATION, ELIZABETH CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

ECU IN PASQUOTANK COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Faculty in ECU's Division of Health Sciences collaborated on grant-funded efforts to help increase patient opportunities for telehealth care by leveraging broadband and cellular access in rural northeastern NC communities, including Pasquotank County. This work allowed ECU to **expand access to health care and wellness options** for the area.
- Funded by a grant award, Dr. Sy Saeed partnered with Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) to provide telepsychiatry services to ECSU students. The partnership **expanded behavioral health care services** at ECSU during a time when mental health concerns on college campuses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic were surging.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. AMY SWAIN

The Southeast Regional Coalition for University Assisted Community Schools (SRCUACS) has chosen ECU, along with Duke University and North Carolina Central University, to **provide access to educational and cultural resources and services** to university assisted community model school P.W. Moore Elementary in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. SRCUACS members such as Dr. Amy Swain in the ECU College of Education use the UACS model to establish partnerships with parents, local civic groups and government agencies, school district administration, healthcare organizations, and local businesses in order to address sustainability and create enriched learning experiences and integrate support through collaborative leadership.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



PERQUIMANS COUNTY



ABOUT

Established as a precinct from Albemarle Precinct in 1668, Perquimans County was first settled by the Yeopim and Weapemeoc tribes.

In 1662, English settler George Durant struck a land deal with the chief of the Yeopim tribe, allowing him to settle land in the county between the Little River and Albemarle Sound. The document is one of the oldest surviving land deeds in North Carolina. The county has also been part of many early political disputes, including Culpeper's Rebellion in 1677 and Cary's Rebellion in 1711.

The town of Hertford serves as the county seat. Other communities located in Perquimans County include Chapanoke, Belvidere, Durants Neck, Snug Harbor, and Winfall.

Perquimans County's historical and cultural attractions include the Alfred Moore House, the Newbold-White House, the Piney Woods Friends Meetinghouse, and the Thomas Nixon Plantation. Local festivals include the Hearth and Harvest Festival, the Perquimans County Indian Summer Festival, and the Spring Fling and Old-Timers Game.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
13,377
NC RANKING:
90th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	23%	21%	13%
WHITE	74%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	3%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	50	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	48%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	25%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	14,258	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **89%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **53%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$11,828	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	54%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
None

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **1**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	3%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	402	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	20	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	9%	11%	9%
OBESITY	34%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$59,401**
NC RANKING: **45th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	13%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Perquimans County Schools**

PERQUIMANS COUNTY



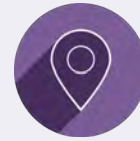
FAST FACTS



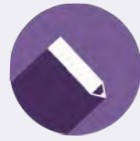
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**HEALTHCARE,
RETAIL,
CONSTRUCTION**



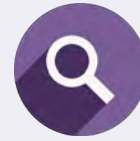
Top Attractions:
**OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
45



of K-12 Public
Schools:
4



Known for:
**ALBEMARLE SOUND,
PROXIMITY TO THE
OUTER BANKS**

ECU IN PERQUIMANS COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- To **expand access to health care and wellness options** in the rural area, ECU's School of Dental Medicine opened a service learning center in Elizabeth City. The center also provided dental health access to those in neighboring Perquimans County. The service learning center also provides dental students a **transformative educational experience** in a real-world setting.
- The ECU Health Sciences Leadership Council created a healthcare centric interprofessional case competition to bring together teams of health professions students across ECU's schools and programs to develop an innovative and creative way to reduce mortality rates related to heart disease in Perquimans County. The program not only **promoted interdisciplinary collaboration and experiential learning**, but also helped to create a **sustainable community-based project aimed at fostering comprehensive well being**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DRS. MICHAEL O'DRISCOLL & MEGHAN MILLEA

Coastlines are vital to the US economy, well-being, and security; but, they face increasing threats from water related issues such as extreme weather, sea level rise, flooding, and other natural hazards. ECU researchers in the Coastlines & People Project, an NSF-funded, interdisciplinary team, including geoscientist Dr. Michael O'Driscoll and professor of economics Dr. Meghan Millea, among many others, are working to strengthen resilience in communities along the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary system. The collaborative community science program not only **expands and enriches external partnerships** by working with city and town governments and local and regional organizations, it also assesses challenges and provides environmental, social, and economic data to help make decisions on vulnerability and community adaptation, ultimately **advancing regional sustainability**.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



PITT COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1760 after the annexation of Beaufort County, Pitt County was named for British statesman William Pitt. A regional courthouse and prison were built within the county, with the county seat set in Martinsborough – renamed Greenville – in 1787.


Other communities located in Pitt County include Ayden, Bethel, Black Jack, Calico, Grifton, Grimesland, Pactolus, Simpson, and Stokes.


Pitt County is home to East Carolina University, established in 1907, and features historic structures including the College View

Historic District in Greenville, the Ayden Historic District in Ayden, and the James L. Fleming House in Greenville.

Pitt County's historical cultural attractions include the Ayden Arts and Recreation Center, the Dance Arts Theatre, the Greenville Museum of Art, and the Walter Stasavich Science and Nature Center. The county hosts annual festivals such as the Ayden Collard Festival, the Farmville Dogwood Festival, and the Winterville Watermelon Festival.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 175,119 NC RANKING: 16th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	26%	21%	13%
	WHITE	59%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	6%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	33	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	42%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	34%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	194,033	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 82% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$9,916	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	67%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 47% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: ECU Pitt Community College		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 12 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	9	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	9%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	460	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	10%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	36%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$54,915 NC RANKING: 69th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	20%	13%	13%
	LARGEST EMPLOYER: ECU Health			

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

PITT COUNTY



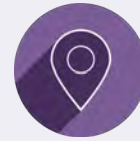
FAST FACTS



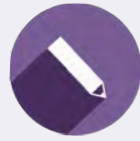
Top Crops:
**CORN,
COTTON**



Top Industries:
**HEALTHCARE,
EDUCATION,
MANUFACTURING**



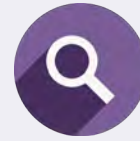
Top Attractions:
**SHOPPING, PIRATE
SPORTS, TAR RIVER
ACTIVITIES**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
2,665



of K-12 Public
Schools:
37



Known for:
**ECU, HEALTHCARE,
SIMPLY NATURAL
CREAMERY**

ECU IN PITT COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Increasing public engagement with and access to educational offerings** during the pandemic, Laupus Library provided laptops and health education instruction to the school-aged children of migrant farmworker families in Wayne and Pitt counties. The grant-funded program allowed the children to continue learning when school moved to virtual.
- ECU was the first college in the UNC system to open a Campus Kitchen, a project that brought hunger relief to Pitt County. Powered by students, Campus Kitchen provided participants a **transformative experience** during their college career.
- Also providing **transformative experiences and experiential learning**, the RISE29 entrepreneur-focused internship program placed students with a cafe in Farmville to help identify new revenue streams and develop ways to serve more customers. The success of the business will help **advance the area's economic prosperity**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DRS. VIRGINIA DRISCOLL & ADRIENNE STEINER-BRETT

ECU's School of Music has been a pioneer in music therapy, creating curriculum and relationships with the community for decades. But Drs. Virginia Driscoll and Adrienne Steiner-Brett are taking the program to the next level by creating access to **collaborate in the fostering of comprehensive and innovative health care and wellness options** for eastern North Carolina. Space in the ECU School of Music has been dedicated to the Pitt County Group Homes Foundation (PCGHF), honoring the foundation's longstanding relationship, and providing a place for the transformative power of music. The Music Therapy Clinic houses musical instruments and showcases live music to aid neurologic stimulation that help clients reach a variety of health and wellness goals.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



TYRRELL COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1729 out of Bertie, Chowan, Pasquotank, and Currituck counties, Tyrrell County was named for Lord Proprietor Sir John Tyrrell. The county was established to provide those living in the region better access to a courthouse, a jail, and other government buildings. Columbia serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Tyrrell County include Fort Landing, Frying Pan Landing, Gum Neck, Kilkenny, Newfoundland, and Woodley.

The Secotan and Tuscarora tribes originally inhabited Tyrrell County. Archaeologists have discovered Native American artifacts in the county, including pots and weapons from before the colonial era.

Tyrrell County's historical and cultural attractions include the Columbia Historic District, the Columbia Theater Cultural Resources Center, the Pocosin Arts School of Fine Craft, and the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge – a 110,000-acre conservation site that serves as one of the largest ecosystems for black bears on the east coast.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
3,461
NC RANKING:
100th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	38%	21%	13%
WHITE	57%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	9%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	45	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	38%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	30%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	3,727	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
RATE: **>95%**
NC: 87% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS
READING AT GRADE
LEVEL: **50%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$17,243	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
None

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIANS
PER 10,000: **0**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	0	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	11%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	538	475	441
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	16	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	13%	11%	9%
OBESITY	39%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME: **\$55,341**
NC RANKING: **98th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	16%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Tyrrell County
Board of Education**

TYRRELL COUNTY



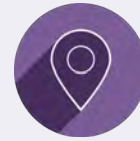
FAST FACTS



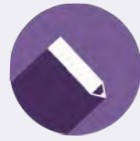
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**AGRICULTURE,
CONSTRUCTION,
RETAIL**



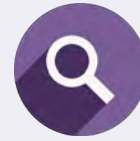
Top Attractions:
ECOTOURISM



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
23



of K-12 Public
Schools:
3



Known for:
**SCUPPERNONG RIVER,
ALLIGATOR RIVER,
ALBEMARLE SOUND**

ECU IN TYRRELL COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- Through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates have worked with the Tyrrell County Soil and Water Conservation District to help push for drainage service districts to maximize drainage and storm water runoff, test water quality and nutrient levels in water sources throughout the county, test for salt influx in groundwater and to help digitize and survey aerial maps to track erosion. The opportunity not only offers transformative learning experiences, but it also **helps strengthen the regional workforce**.
- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, several students have spent their summers working with the Pocosin Arts School of Fine Craft. The center operates a teaching studio and gallery in Columbia, providing the community with art programs, workshops, summer camps and festivals.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. NATHAN RICHARDS

The Suppernong River Project emerged from a simple collaborative question: how can we work together? Dr. Nathan Richards, along with organizations like Coastal Studies Institute and Pocosin Arts Folk School used this question to **expand external partnerships** in order to seek out the maritime cultural resources of Tyrrell County and expose the area as a pivotal piece in the maritime history of North Carolina at large. Working with locals and a wealth of historical information, Richards and students of the Maritime Studies Program at ECU uncovered a record of the rich interaction between humans and the environment through the physical remains of transportation networks, the fishing industry, lumber industry, warfare, and the development of Columbia.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



WASHINGTON COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1799 out of Tyrrell County, Washington County was named for the first president of the United States, George Washington. Plymouth serves as the county seat.


Other communities located in Washington County include Creswell, Lake Phelps, Pea Ridge, and Roper. Natural features in the county include the Albemarle Sound, the East Dismal Swamp, and the Roanoke and Scuppernon rivers.


Washington County's economy revolves around manufacturing and agriculture, including corn, livestock, plywood, lumber, sage, and tobacco. The county is home to Somerset Place, one of


the state's most prosperous plantations during the American Civil War.

The plantation housed over 800 slaves at its peak and today serves as a reunion place for slave descendants.

Washington County's historical and cultural attractions include Buncombe Hall, the Plymouth Historic District, the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, the Port O' Plymouth Roanoke River Museum, and the Washington County Arts Council.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 10,713 NC RANKING: 95th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	49%	21%	13%
	WHITE	48%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	6%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	48	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	47%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	41%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	11,584	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 74% NC: 88% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$16,381	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
	THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 34% NC: 50% US: 68%	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: None		

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 4 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	1	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	27%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	498	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	18	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	13%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	42%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$38,927 NC RANKING: 89th *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	22%	13%	13%
	LARGEST EMPLOYER: Domtar Paper Company, LLC			

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

WASHINGTON COUNTY



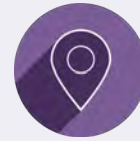
FAST FACTS



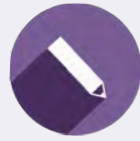
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN**



Top Industries:
**AGRICULTURE,
MANUFACTURING**



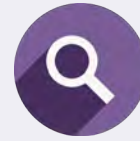
Top Attractions:
**PETTIGREW STATE
PARK, WATERWAY
ACCESS, BLACK BEAR
FESTIVAL**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
59



of K-12 Public
Schools:
6



Known for:
**PHELPS LAKE, OLDEST
DUGOUT LOG CANOE
DISCOVERY**

ECU IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates have worked with the Washington County Government on data management and a comprehensive rewrite of their solid waste ordinance that was severely outdated.
- Since 1993, the Alpha Life Enrichment Center has supported residents in various counties such as Washington County. Through the RISE29 program, students at ECU have helped ALEC fulfill its mission to support minority farmers in the region by providing healthier food options. An internship team was tasked with developing a strategic business plan for the local food canning operation, including a grant guide and list of potential partners. The **transformative experience** helped **advance regional economic prosperity and sustainability**.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. STEPHANIE LYNN RICHARDS

Mosquito population sampling in Washington County helped Dr. Stephanie Lynn Richards identify the various species that plague parts of eastern North Carolina and examine the effectiveness of mosquito spray on insect populations. Dr. Richard's work has also led to the study of insecticide resistance in North Carolina mosquitos and the evaluation of mosquito control in the region. This aids in the prevention of the spread of certain diseases to both humans and animals, and improvement in **environmental health management and sustainability**.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.

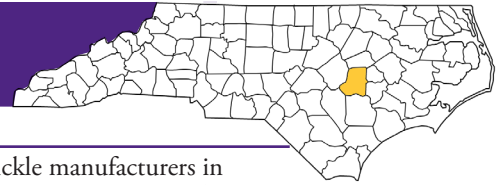


LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



WAYNE COUNTY



ABOUT


Established in 1779 from Dobbs County, Wayne County is named after one of George Washington's most respected generals, "Mad Anthony" Wayne. Goldsboro has served as the county seat after the first county seat, Waynesboro, was dissolved after the American Civil War.



Other communities located in Wayne County include Dobbersville, Dudley, Eureka, Mount Olive, Seven Springs, Pikeville, and Walnut Creek.


The county is home to the Mount Olive Pickle Company and the University of Mount Olive. The Mount Olive Pickle Company is

one of the largest pickle manufacturers in the United States since it's opening in the 1920s. The University of Mount Olive serves 3,250 undergraduates.

Wayne County's historic and cultural attractions include the birthplace of Governor Charles B. Aycock, Goldsboro City Hall, Goldsboro Civic Ballet, and the Wayne County Museum. The county hosts annual festivals such as the Fremont Daffodil Festival, the North Carolina Pickle Festival, and the Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair.

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}</p> <p>POPULATION: 118,686 NC RANKING: 25th *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties</p>	BLACK	32%	21%	13%
	WHITE	63%	65%	66%
	HISPANIC	12%	10%	19%
	MEDIAN AGE	38	39	39
	RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	38%	39%	43%
	FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	31%	29%	27%
	PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	128,239	11.1M	337.2M

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: 78% NC: 87% US: 89%</p>	STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,128	\$10,791	\$16,080
	STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	>90%	58%	77%
 <p>THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: 38% NC: 50% US: 68%</p>	COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES: Wayne Community College University of Mount Olive			

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}</p> <p>PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: 5 NC: 8 US: 28</p>	DENTISTS PER 10,000	3	5	6
	FOOD INSECURE	18%	14%	--
	CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	518	475	441
	HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
	UNINSURED ADULTS	13%	11%	9%
	OBESITY	39%	34%	42%

		COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
 <p>ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}</p> <p>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$54,323 NC RANKING: 61st *ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST out of 100 counties</p>	UNEMPLOYED	4%	4%	4%
	LIVE IN POVERTY	18%	13%	13%
LARGEST EMPLOYER:		Wayne County Public Schools		

SOURCES: ¹ US Census ² NC.Gov Projected County Population ³ Kids County Data Center ⁴ North Carolina School Report Cards ⁵ NC Health Data Explorer ⁶ NC DPI Statistical Profile State Per Pupil Expenditure 2021-2022 ⁷ Sheps Health Workforce ⁸ CDC ⁹ US Bureau of Labor Statistics ¹⁰ NC Institute of Medicine | "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project

WAYNE COUNTY



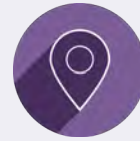
FAST FACTS



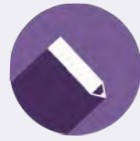
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN, WHEAT**



Top Industries:
**DEPT. OF DEFENSE,
AGRICULTURE,
MANUFACTURING**



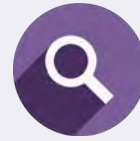
Top Attractions:
**CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE,
SHOPPING, DINING**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
574



of K-12 Public
Schools:
31



Known for:
**WINGS OVER WAYNE AIR
SHOW, MOUNT OLIVE
PICKLES**

ECU IN WAYNE COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- With funding from a three-year mathematics science partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Education, ECU worked with Beaufort, Craven and Wayne county schools to provide content and professional development for teachers in the K-8 physical sciences. Programs like this **help to strengthen the regional workforce and enrich external partnerships.**
- **Increasing public engagement with and access to educational offerings** during the pandemic, Laupus Library provided laptops and health education instruction to the school-aged children of migrant farmworker families in Wayne and Pitt counties. The grant-funded program allowed the children to continue learning when school moved to virtual.
- **Providing transformative experiences and experiential learning** through the SECU Public Fellows Internship program, undergraduates worked with Wayne County Government on projects which focused on the city's strategic planning initiatives.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. MATTHEW LEDOUX

ECU opened its Mount Olive Children's Advocacy Center to address child-abuse cases in under-resourced eastern North Carolina. The center joins staff like Dr. Matthew Ledoux from the Tender Evaluation, Diagnosis and Intervention for a Better Abuse Response (TEDI BEAR) Children's Advocacy Center in providing evaluation, education, and treatment services in cases of abuse or witness to violence. The center functions as a haven for children and caregivers, working with community partners, law enforcement, and other entities to ensure at-risk children in rural North Carolina have **access to comprehensive well-being options** that keep them safe. The vital center also provides training opportunities for ECU students in pediatrics, nursing, dentistry, social work, and criminal justice.

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



WILSON COUNTY



ABOUT

Established in 1855 out of Edgecombe, Johnston, Nash, and Wayne counties, Wilson County was named after Colonel Louis D. Wilson, a former soldier and legislator who died during the Mexican-American War. The city of Wilson serves as the county seat.

Other communities located in Wilson County include Black Creek, Elm City, Lucama, Saratoga, and Stantonsburg.

Wilson County was the home of the Wilson Female Academy, which was founded in 1859 and then converted into the Wilson Collegiate Institute until its closing in the 1890s. Barton College, a four-year, private, liberal arts college, is located in Wilson.

The county promoted itself as “The World’s Greatest Tobacco Market” as tobacco and cotton played a key role in its early industrial history. Wilson is the original home of BB&T, which was founded in the 19th century. After World War II, the county attracted other industries, including pharmaceutical plants, to the region. Pharmaceutical companies include Sandoz, Merck, and Fresenius Kabi USA.

Wilson County’s historical and cultural attractions include the Branch Banking building, the North Carolina Museum of the Coastal Plains, and the Wilson Central Business-Tobacco Warehouse Historical District.

DEMOGRAPHICS ^{1,2}



POPULATION:
78,970
NC RANKING:
36th

*ranked HIGH to LOW
out of 100 counties

	COUNTY	NC AVG	US AVG
BLACK	40%	21%	13%
WHITE	56%	65%	66%
HISPANIC	11%	10%	19%
MEDIAN AGE	41	39	39
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME	41%	39%	43%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE	34%	29%	27%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION	86,366	11.1M	337.2M

EDUCATION ^{3,4,5,6}



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE: **83%**
NC: 86% | US: 89%



THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL: **53%**
NC: 50% | US: 68%

STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12	\$10,204	\$10,791	\$16,080
STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	66%	58%	77%

COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:
Wilson Community College
Barton College

HEALTH ^{1,5,8,10}



PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000: **6**
NC: 8 | US: 28

DENTISTS PER 10,000	4	5	6
FOOD INSECURE	4%	14%	--
CANCER INCIDENCE PER 100,000	448	475	44
HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000	17	16	20
UNINSURED ADULTS	12%	11%	9%
OBESITY	42%	34%	42%

ECONOMY ^{1,4,9}



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: **\$49,827**
NC RANKING: **65th**
*ranked HIGHEST to LOWEST
out of 100 counties

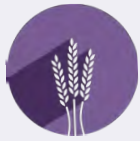
UNEMPLOYED	5%	4%	4%
LIVE IN POVERTY	20%	13%	13%

LARGEST EMPLOYER: **Bridgestone Americas Tire Operation**

WILSON COUNTY



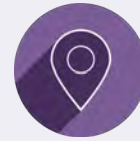
FAST FACTS



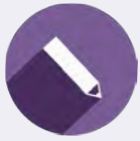
Top Crops:
**SOYBEANS,
CORN, SWEET
POTATOES**



Top Industries:
**MANUFACTURING,
CONSTRUCTION,
RETAIL**



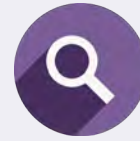
Top Attractions:
**WHIRLIGIG PARK,
AMTRAK THRUWAY,
IMAGINATION STATION**



of Enrolled ECU
Students from
County:
431



of K-12 Public
Schools:
25



Known for:
**HOME TO BB&T (NOW
TRUIST), WHIRLIGIG
FESTIVAL**

ECU IN WILSON COUNTY

As a nationally recognized university for community engagement, ECU faculty, staff, and students are committed to engaged research, learning, and public service in partnership with counties throughout eastern North Carolina. ECU's mission and vision are reflected through the following successes:

- 44 nursing student clinical groups from ECU participated in vaccine clinics in Pitt, Wilson, and Wayne counties during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 230 undergraduate and graduate students helped to stop the spread of the virus in eastern NC. The endeavor not only provided the students with critical training, but also helped **provided access to this vital healthcare service.**
- ECU's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement provides an alternative spring break experience for students to address a variety of social causes. Through partnership with local community organizations, students can help in community gardens, work on oyster reef construction, register voters, or distribute food at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina in Wilson. The **transformative experiences enrich external partnerships and advance regional prosperity.**

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



DR. TRAVIS LEWIS

Emotional and mental health needs of adolescents are as important as their educational and physical needs. Former EOSA scholar Dr. Travis Lewis worked with other ECU faculty and community partners in Wilson County to better understand the influence of social connectedness in supporting the emotional and mental health needs of middle schoolers. Lewis continues to work with teachers and administrators, to apply social and emotional learning strategies and techniques to mitigate the effects of trauma on school aged children and provide processes and support for behavioral threat assessment in K-12 schools, **strengthening educational opportunities and academic programs to meet the needs of a rural population.**

ECU has been recognized as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement designated campus since 2008 and an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University since 2015.



LEARN MORE!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the work ECU is doing in this community:



A black silhouette of a smartphone with a white screen. The screen displays the text "Share your experience!".

Share your experience!

TAG US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you're sharing this journey through photos on social media, feel free to tag us in your posts! If you aren't on social media but have great photos to share, send them to us at communityengagement@ecu.edu.



@ECUInnovates



@ECUInnovates



@ECUInnovation

COMPLETE THE SURVEY

At the end of this bus tour, please complete the bus tour survey. Your feedback will help us ensure a quality experience for future participants.

