East Carolina University’s proposed 150,000-square-foot Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building, with a focus on teaching and research, will be eastern North Carolina’s newest major intersection—of education and jobs, of the university and industry, of innovation and economic development.

This building addresses two commitments in ECU’s strategic plan, maximizing student success and leading regional transformation, and will include the following:

- the Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence
- bioprocess and biomedical engineering
- a new home for the ECU Department of Biology, where researchers and students will focus on molecular and cell biology, microbiology, biochemistry, genetics and evolutionary biology, and environmental biology

Open research spaces will allow scientists and students from various fields to work together to make discoveries in crop research, agricultural technology and agricultural products. They will seek answers to questions about North Carolina’s environment, the ecological impacts of development, water quality and more. They will explore new and more efficient ways to manufacture pharmaceuticals and biological products such as vaccines. They will connect with researchers across ECU and beyond.

The Connect NC Bond Act

Funded by $90 million from the Connect NC bond act, to be voted on in March, ECU’s Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building will increase research development funding in eastern North Carolina, help recruit and retain innovative researchers and students, and increase production of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) graduates. These graduates will have opportunities to earn higher-than-average starting salaries, to work for industrial, government and military partners who will be attracted to the region, and to boost the industrial and entrepreneurial investment in the region.

2015 Spring Commencement: 52 percent of the more than 4,800 graduates received STEM degrees.

Each year, the ECU Department of Biology instructs more than 12,000 students.

Approximately 650 undergraduate and graduate students major in biology.

Approximately 700 students major in engineering.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, ECU instructed approximately 6,000 students in biology labs.

Record total enrollment for ECU in 2015: 28,289*

*Record enrollment overall and for undergraduates (23,039)
INTERSECTION: Education and Jobs

ECU will grow its engineering programs from about 700 students today to 1,000 by 2019, igniting innovation and technology developments. With biomedical and bioprocess engineers earning a median income of more than $86,960 a year, and job growth predicted to climb 27 percent by 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, ECU will be producing graduates who can earn salaries that far outpace the regional average.

We need strong science and a strong workforce coming from our universities. Facilities like this one will help North Carolina lead the growth in life sciences, and it will help us grow high-paying jobs here in the state.”

– Doug Edgeton, president and CEO of the Biotechnology Center

INTERSECTION: University and Industry

Team science. It’s students, faculty and industry experts working together to tackle tough questions and develop solutions. It’s pharmaceutical companies and ECU working together to develop technically skilled and creative students. It’s leveraging the region’s agriculture biotechnology to create new products and production techniques.

INTERSECTION: Innovation and Economic Development

In 2015, ECU received $44.4 million in extramural funding, filed 13 U.S. patent applications, was awarded eight patents and had 14 active license/option agreements with small businesses. Eight of those were start-up companies. The Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building will be the incubator for innovation and economic development.

85 entrepreneurial life sciences companies in North Carolina raised $268 million in equity funding during the first half of 2015*

*Council for Entrepreneurial Development’s Innovators Report

E CU generates a $2.8 billion economic impact for the state and a $1.8 billion impact for the eastern region.

PROJECTS IN THE NORTHEAST REGION:

• Pitt Community College improvements
• College of the Albemarle improvements
• Martin Community College improvements
• Beaufort County Community College improvements
• Halifax Community College improvements
• Roanoke-Chowan Community College improvements
• Pettigrew State Park improvements
• Goose Creek State Park improvements
• Medoc Mountain State Park improvements
• Dismal Swamp State Park improvements
• Merchants Millpond State Park improvements
• Jockey’s Ridge State Park improvements
• East Carolina University Life Sciences and Biotech Building

For more information, visit connect.nc.gov

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