N.C. A&T’s Role in Regional Economic and Community Development

North Carolina A&T State University has developed a continuum of economic development and community engagement initiatives that take advantage of its technical expertise and outreach capacity.

► RESEARCH

N.C. A&T is the third largest research enterprise in the UNC system averaging, $58 million annually in external sponsored research grants and contracts. Notably, N.C. A&T’s spinoff—Advaero Technologies—is a full-function composites company, specializing in engineering, design, materials testing, mold development and prototyping. Its initial customers are in the aerospace industry.

► COLLABORATIONS

N.C. A&T has leveraged its excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) research and education to develop collaborative partnerships with a variety of regional, national and international industries:

- **Nanoengineering** – Collaborating on a Small Business Innovation Research grant with a Yadkinville based nanotechnology company to develop new structural and coating materials of interest to the U.S. Department of Defense.
- **Medical Devices** – Working with a small business in Eastern North Carolina to investigate a revolutionary spinal surgical implant technology.
- **Agriculture** – Assisting an emerging agricultural company in Johnston County to vastly expand its production capacity of exotic mushrooms and thereby expand its market to all of North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic corridor.
- **Aerospace** – Assisting North Carolina jet design and manufacturing companies to model and simulate design characteristics and providing analytical measurement services for prototype evaluation.
- **Early College** – Partnering with Guilford County Schools to provide the STEM Early College at N.C. A&T, that is geared toward highly motivated and high performing high school students who have demonstrated interest in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

N.C. A&T’s Middle College High School is a Guilford County Schools partnership designed to help raise the educational aspirations and performance levels of its all-male student body. Notably, the senior class of 2012 had 100 percent graduation and four-year college acceptance rates.

► COMMUNITY AND ENTREPRENEURIAL OUTREACH

N.C. A&T’s Cooperative Extension programs offer economic development and community outreach programs statewide.

The N.C. A&T International Trade Center assists farmers across the state and internationally to organize cooperative associations and local farmer’s markets and provide training in the areas of small business management and operating skills.

The Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training Center at N.C. A&T provides technical assistance, strategic planning, accounting services, business planning and other services to select newly established small businesses (owned by low to moderate income persons) in Southeast Greensboro. Over a four-year period, the center housed 11 businesses (all realizing significant earnings in one year) and annually provides services to more than 30 new and existing businesses.

N.C. A&T’s Interdisciplinary Center for Entrepreneurship and E-Business offers a variety of educational programs as well as collaborates with community organizations to offer entrepreneurship training.

► CONTINUING EDUCATION AND INTERNSHIPS

Continuing education and student internships are additional aspects of the outreach efforts that demonstrate N.C. A&T’s commitment to developing a well-educated workforce through real-world experiences in a variety of businesses in the state.