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May 20, 2020  
Notable News from the UNC System**

A newly released economic impact report shares that WSSU has a \$500 million impact on the Triad. The report, prepared by Professor of Accounting, Economics, and Finance Dr. Zagros Madjd-Sadjadi and his students included university spending and the financial impact of students and graduates.

Winston-Salem State University's online RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is now ranked the best in the nation. According to RegisteredNursing.org, WSSU's program has an innovative curriculum that is affordable and highly flexible for registered nurses who want to advance their education quickly.

Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson's radio show is back on a new platform with a new name: *Future Focus Now*. The webcast will air live on Tuesday evenings on WSNC 90.5 FM's Facebook page. In each episode, Robinson will discuss important issues with top thought leaders, researchers, artists, and personalities. Episodes have included Carl Armato, president and CEO of Novant Health, Mark Owens, president and CEO of Greater Winston-Salem Inc., and Stephen A. Smith, commentator on ESPN's *First Take*.

WSSU hosted a virtual celebration to honor the Class of 2020 graduates. The virtual celebration recognized individual achievements, and each student was announced by name. Participants were highlighted in a personalized graduate slide and a 10-12 second video. The virtual celebration did not replace the formal commencement ceremony, which will be held later in the academic year.

### **North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics**

NCSSM is converting all of its summer offerings, including Summer Accelerator residential summer camp experiences, to virtual offerings that will provide high-quality educational experiences for students.

Students, faculty, and staff helped the NC Student Academy of Science implement its contingency plan to convert the NCSAS State Competition a remote format. The competition involved students as young as 12 who had never used Zoom as well as 40 judges from 10 institutions. Keynote speaker Dr. Melanie Simpson, chair of NC State's Biochemistry Department, gave her presentation via Zoom as well.

A team of three NCSSM high school students won the top distinction in the college-level Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications's worldwide Mathematical Contest in Modeling, the only team outside of China with a top-rated paper. To win, residential seniors Jason Li, Suraj Rao, and Melody Wen tackled a real-world problem related to changes in ocean temperatures. The team was able to calculate and predict migration changes of ocean-dwelling species and its impact on revenue to the fishing industry. The NCSSM team was the only high school team to earn the distinction of "Outstanding" and surpassed teams from Emory, NYU, Virginia Tech, USC, UCLA, and more. NCSSM was allowed to compete with undergraduates after their outstanding work in an earlier high school version of the competition.