

## APPENDIX N



Office of the Chancellor

[ncsu.edu/chancellor](http://ncsu.edu/chancellor)

Campus Box 7001  
Holladay Hall, Suite A  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7001  
P: 919.515.2191

May 3, 2021

Mr. Temple Sloan, Chair  
Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs  
Dr. Kimberly van Noort  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer  
PO Box 2688  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Mr. Sloan and Dr. van Noort:

NC State University ("NC State") and the Wake County Board of Education ("Wake County") have successfully collaborated for over a decade on the Wake STEM Early College High School ("STEM ECHS"). NC State and Wake County look forward to continuing this partnership. Pursuant to NCGS § 115C-238.50A and UNC Policy 400.6.1[R], NC State requests a waiver of the requirement that the STEM ECHS be located on NC State's campus in order for the STEM ECHS to constitute a Cooperative Innovative High School. Both NC State and Wake County desire to continue their collaboration on the STEM ECHS after STEM ECHS moves off NC State's campus after December 2021. To this end, the parties have finalized a Third Memorandum of Agreement, which was approved by the Wake County on April 6, 2021 and by NC State's Board of Trustees on April 16, 2021. However, because the parties intend for the STEM ECHS to move operations off NC State's campus in January 2022, we are now seeking an exception and waiver of the requirement that the school be located on NC State's campus.

The STEM ECHS is a supportive and academically challenging learning environment for students underserved in a traditional high school setting and underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, including first generation college students. The goal of the STEM ECHS is to have students who are prepared to compete globally in careers related to these fields upon graduation. The STEM ECHS has received national and state recognition, including receiving national awards and recognition in each of the last six years. U.S. News and World Report ranks STEM ECHS as the best high school in Wake County, and ranks it sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) among all North Carolina high schools.

The STEM ECHS and related program have provided great benefit to both NC State and Wake County since it was first established in 2011. The STEM ECHS provides Wake County parents with an extraordinary opportunity for their children to have access to authentic college learning experiences, exposing them to world leading research and development in STEM fields, while also having the ability to earn college course credit at no cost to them. In 2019 alone, 133 STEM ECHS students took NC State courses, earning 1,058 credit hours for college. Since 2016, an average of 9 STEM ECHS students have been admitted and enrolled at NC State each Fall.

Since its establishment, the STEM ECHS has been located in the Cherry Building on NC State's Centennial Campus. The Cherry Building is in need of substantial capital renovations, many of which are cost prohibitive. Thus, to further meet STEM ECHS' operational needs, Wake County is in the process of renovating another facility to house the STEM ECHS, located in Cary, North Carolina. These renovations

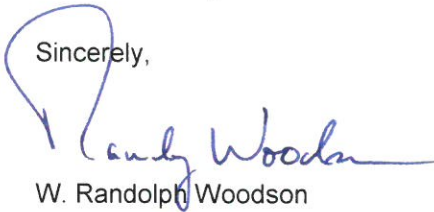
## APPENDIX N

are scheduled to be completed in December 2021. Upon completion of these renovations, Wake County intends for the STEM ECHS to relocate and operate out of this Cary facility.

STEM ECHS will also continue to maintain a presence at NC State. STEM ECHS utilizes space in NC State's Witherspoon Student Center for program administration while STEM ECHS students are on NC State's main campus, including for daily check-ins and meetings with STEM ECHS classes, teachers, counselors, and the career development coordinator, as well as other educational instruction.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of the foregoing request. If the Committee needs any further information, we are available to answer any questions or provide any additional information the Committee may need.

Sincerely,



W. Randolph Woodson  
Chancellor