



## NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

*A&T Preeminence 2020: Embracing Our Past, Creating Our Future* sets North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, one of America's highly-respected land-grant universities, on a strategic course, recommitting the university to its founding values. This call to action—an invitation to engage collaboratively as a community of learners toward excellence in transformational, interdisciplinary research, creative scholarship and intentional community service and engagement—is the driving force for creating a significant difference in the lives of those we educate and in solving the critical problems of the local, regional and global communities we serve.

### 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 takes 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.