

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

Regional Economic Development Meeting

November 21, 2012

“How does North Carolina Central University (NCCU) perceive its role in regional economic and community development?”

The North Carolina Central University's Division of Research and Economic Development has campus-wide responsibility for economic development. The Division is led by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development who is responsible for fostering the appropriate climate to support economic development initiatives and opportunities.

It is important to note that NCCU is actively engaged in enhancing the economic transformation and community development of North Carolina regions and the state as a whole and perceives its role to be a collaborative partner in the coalition committed to regional economic growth and success.

An Economic Development Task Force has been established by NCCU focused on housing, streetscape, transportation and commercial and retail development in the areas contiguous to the campus. The charge is to identify short and long term pre-requisites to be able to take advantage of sustainable economic development opportunities, and form strategic partnerships in order to strengthen NCCU's relationship in the community and state. The Task Force is composed of business and community leaders, university personnel, state and local government officials. NCCU is a member of the Durham County Strategic Planning Committee.

Please note that NCCU has multiple constituents and departments tasked with collaborating, planning and implementing activities that stimulate economic transformation and development for the region. In addition, NCCU has greatly increased its focus on entrepreneurship endeavors within the School of Business. Effective October 2012, the NCCU School of Business Entrepreneurship concentration was approved with the first of the core courses set to begin in Fall 2013. The Entrepreneurship concentration aim is to develop a strong curriculum that trains students at the undergraduate and graduate levels to be knowledgeable about key aspects of starting a business and the application of entrepreneurial thinking. The strategy is designed to produce high quality academic and research based programs in Entrepreneurship with continuous outputs in the form of successful small businesses in the NC region and local community. NCCU's Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise was developed to assist in meeting the pharmaceutical industries workforce needs in NC by partnering with NC BioImpact, BTEC and BioNetwork.

The Small Business and Technology Development Center (SBTDC) and NCCU have a strong alliance. NCCU houses a satellite office, on campus, which further facilitates the connection to local small and medium sized businesses in the community. Moreover, NCCU is a partner in the Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network Initiative which is designed to unlock the tremendous entrepreneurial and economic growth potential of North Carolina's Research Triangle Park (RTP) area.

Focused on wealth creation, NCCU is enhancing its operation and expanding Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property licensing. It is NCCU's primary goal to establish vital partnerships with local RTP industry leaders, such as the NC Biotechnology Center and collaborate with Venture Capital (VC) networks to explore commercialization opportunities.

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