@work on the economy:

Floodwaters reached more than 1,200 homes and businesses in Lumberton alone (Chuck Burton, AP)

UNC System’s SBTDC, Partners Spell Relief for Hurricane-Ravaged Small Businesses

For the past two weeks, hundreds of businesses across eastern North Carolina have been out of business.

Now, thanks to an emergency bridge loan program organized by the Small Business and Technology Development Center(SBTDC), the NC Rural Economic Development Center and the NC Community College’s Small Business Center network, they can get the cash they need to re-establish businesses that were shut down by flooding, wind or debris damage.

The Emergency Bridge Loan Program allows small business owners (those with fewer than 100 employees) in the 52 counties affected by Hurricane Matthew to apply for interest free loans of up to $15,000.

“The truth of the matter,” says SBTDC director Scott

EDITOR’S NOTE:
This is the final issue of UNC@Work.

It has been a great run. Over the past 5+ years, we’ve done 64 monthly reports featuring the valuable ways UNC institutions and affiliates are at work.

That’s 192 stories- once a month about things we are doing to help surrounding communities; one a month on our owrk with community groups; one a month on ways we are getting the state and our students ready to connect to the world.

Special thanks to Kelley Gregory, who has midwifed every issue in to cyberspace, and Eric Johnson, who’s found at least one great story a month from across our system. For a look at past issues go to http://www.northcarolina.edu/UNCWork/Past-Issues-UNCWork

The "work" of UNC continues- to read about it go to our website for a fresh stream of great stories: www.northcarolina.edu.

--Leslie Boney
Daugherty, “Is that the sooner a business is able to get back up and running, the more likely it is that the business will make it.”

Daugherty should know. He and the SBTDC, a systemwide organization based at NC State, headed up a similar initiative using state funds in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. At that time, SBTDC issued 217 loans totaling $1.6 million to affected businesses. Some 95% of those loans were repaid, an exceptional record in the wake of a disaster. Following the recovery, Daugherty published a how-to guide for government agencies across the country.

Following the hurricane, the NC Rural Economic Development Center, SBTDC and community colleges have raised more than $3 million from funders, including the Golden LEAF Foundation, N.C.’s Electric Membership Cooperatives, BB&T, PNC and Wells Fargo. The bridge loans are designed to sustain small businesses while they apply for federal disaster relief loans, which can take several weeks to process.

The SBTDC has deep experience working with businesses, federal and state agencies and other business support organizations in North Carolina. Since 1984, the SBTDC has served as a business advisory service of the University of North Carolina System, helping some 135,000 entrepreneurs and small business leaders get market information, improve financial performance, access capital, improve management and focus strategy. In the past year, they’ve assisted more than 4,600 businesses, provided 60,000 hours of counseling and given 4,500 individuals business training at 180 events. More than 500 students have gotten hands-on experience working with SBTDC businesses.

The SBTDC mission, and the public service mission of the UNC system, includes being there when disaster strikes. “Doing this sort of work is an important part of the tradition of extension and engagement that the UNC system has always done,” says Daugherty, “And it is a natural extension of our service to small- and mid-sized businesses.”

But given the choice? Daugherty hopes he won’t have to do it again.

@work in the community:
Hurricane-Effectied UNC Institutions Give Back to Community

Like much of eastern North Carolina, UNC campuses suffered major disruption in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. Several campuses closed for more than a week, with students sent home while staff worked around the clock to restore power, repair wind damage, and dry out soaked facilities.

But even as they struggled to reopen classrooms and get the semester back on track, students, faculty, and staff swung into action to help neighbors in need.

At Fayetteville State, the school has partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank to help replenish depleted food pantries and make plans for a sustained food drive through the holidays.

“We know it’s going to be needed this year more than ever before,” wrote Marsha McLean, FSU’s assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs. “We frequently ask our community to contribute to the University, so it’s very important we lead by example when the community is in need.”

Fayetteville suffered some of the worst flooding in the region during Matthew, and hundreds of families have been displaced from their homes. Focusing on long-range needs is especially important for those struggling to return home, since rebuilding and resettling can be a lengthy process.

At UNC Pembroke, student and staff volunteers were among those who staffed emergency shelters in the days following the storm, when scores of Robeson County residents were forced to evacuate their homes. The University is now making plans for long-term volunteer help as neighborhoods in the area begin to rebuild.

“We demonstrated that there is no barrier that separates us from the community,” wrote Cammie Hunt, UNC-P’s associate vice chancellor for engaged outreach.

Homecoming at East Carolina University became a giant donation drive last weekend, with the American Red Cross stationed at entrances to the football stadium to accept donations for flood relief in Eastern North Carolina. And medical professionals and students from the Brody School of Medicine have been volunteering to help in shelters across Pitt County and the broader region.

For each campus, the response to Hurricane Matthew is seen as part of the core mission of public service in North Carolina. “Our school’s motto — Res Non Verba, or ‘Deeds Not Words’ — defines our emphasis on civic and social responsibility,” wrote Marsha McLean of FSU.

Those interested in supporting University efforts can find more information online:

UNC Pembroke:
Go Global NC “Snapshot” a Tool for Policymakers to Understand North Carolina’s Global Connections

If you’re like a lot of North Carolinians, you have a vague sense that our state is getting more and more connected to the rest of the world. But you may not know what those global connections add up to in your home county, in the workplace, or in your children’s schools.

A new tool developed by Go Global NC (formerly the Center for International Understanding and a program of UNC General Administration) aims to make that information easier to find.

“There’s a lot happening out there,” Rick Van Sant, executive director of Go Global NC, a program of UNC General Administration, told the Public News Service. “But the question for a state level, for policy makers, for people who have larger decisions to make, is how do we do this (global engagement) intentionally and strategically with an eye toward the entire state?”

The North Carolina Global Engagement Snapshot, Go Global’s just-released tool, aims to do that. The Snapshot looks at the state’s global engagement in 63 different categories, including the state’s global brand identity, global infrastructure and logistics, global economic development, cross cultural competence, collaboration and research and global leadership.

The Snapshot grows out of a recommendation from the Coalition for Global Competitiveness, a 40 member bipartisan committee made up of business, education, government and community leaders has worked to position North Carolina globally “as a great place to invest, work, study, visit, partner and live.”

“The Snapshot will allow the Coalition and others to gauge progress and diagnose areas of opportunity,” noted Jim Fain, a former NC secretary of commerce, current Go Global NC board member and the chair of the Coalition. “Coalition members are committed to work together with intentionality to maximize our collective impact – to make one plus one equal three. We believe this to be the
nation’s first plan to coordinate efforts across all sectors to achieve the state’s global potential.”

The Snapshot presents data about North Carolina on a statewide and county level. A few of the findings

* Number of N.C. jobs provided by foreign-owned companies -- 242,700 (an increase of 30.7% since 2009)

* Number of K-12 students studying foreign languages-- more than 380,000

* Value of NC agricultural exports -- $2.3 billion

* Number of companies exporting goods or services from NC -- 10,582

* Economic contribution of international students studying in NC -- $458 million

“We are setting a precedent and our goals at this stage are to get people to use the Snapshot and to help us continue to strengthen this dynamic tool,” said Go Global NC’s Rachel Page, who leads the initiative.

The organization gets significant help from Elon University’s Center for Organizational Analytics, which was instrumental in development of the online dashboard and is supplying interns to help maintain the database, as well as RTI, which has provided technical assistance and strategy advice.

The Snapshot does not make policy recommendations; instead it presents data and encourages state, regional and local policymakers to consider how to respond to our state’s deepening international connections: “There is really no discussion to be had any more about whether we should or whether we shouldn’t,” says Van Sant. “It’s already happened. We live in this very global, contextual world. It’s the reality. You can like it, you can not like it, you can rail against it, you can embrace it. But the reality is that’s train’s done left the station.”

And with that the UNC@Work “train’s done left the station.” The Work continues...

Fact of the Month!

Of the 192 stories in UNC@Work over the past 5+ years, here are a few highlights:

* 17 campuses profiled, each at least 5 times

