

## **North Carolina State University University-Community Partnerships**

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**N**orth Carolina State University (NC State) is the lead agency in the development and implementation of a Partnership for Postsecondary Success in Raleigh, North Carolina funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This broad cross-sector community partnership has been working for 25 months to achieve two goals. The first goal is to promote systemic change in the education enterprise in Raleigh and Wake County, North Carolina. The second goal is to double the number of low-income youth in Raleigh who achieve a postsecondary credential and secure living-wage employment by 2025. Faculty members and staff at NC State partner with staff at Wake Technical Community College to also lead the Raleigh Promise, a three-part programmatic effort designed to increase the postsecondary success of low-income youth in Raleigh. The Office of the Special Assistant to the Provost for Outreach and Engagement has been responsible for developing and implementing this effort. Recently, the leadership for this effort has moved to the Office of Academic Programs and Services. The implementation phase started in July 2011. Faculty and staff involved in this phase have been engaging a broad cross-section of the Raleigh community, including city government, county health and human services, the chamber of commerce, nonprofit community agencies, faith-based community agencies, Wake County Public Schools, corporate and business organizations, philanthropic foundations, and all six Raleigh area colleges and universities. The cross-sector partnership is called the Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative (RCCC).

The RCCC has been successful in promoting systemic change by creating new structures (e.g., Raleigh Future Scholars Program, Raleigh Fellows Program, Raleigh College Centers); improving existing and creating new programmatic connections among the six Raleigh colleges, and among the colleges and organizations in the broader Raleigh community; and changing existing policies and practices within city government, at some nonprofits, and at all six participating Raleigh colleges, while empowering community leaders to become more influential and engaged in the educational enterprise in Raleigh. Furthermore, the Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative has made some progress in changing the conversation about public education in Raleigh from a

primary focus on individual prosperity (e.g., personal responsibility, achievement, and future success) to an increased emphasis on community prosperity (e.g., community responsibility, and Raleigh's continuing economic and civic well-being).

The Raleigh Promise, The RCCC's programmatic effort to increase the number of low-income youth who achieve a postsecondary credential and living-wage employment, has established a Raleigh Fellows Program on all six Raleigh campuses. The RCCC has implemented and is in the process of revising a pilot Raleigh Future Scholars Program in four Wake County Public Schools. The Raleigh Promise dedicated its first Raleigh College Center in the Chavis Community Center in January 2012. These three programmatic efforts will directly or indirectly affect over 750 low-income youth (13.2% of the Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative's estimated target population) over the 21-month implementation phase, which will end June, 2013.

The Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative has developed and is beginning to implement a fund-raising and financial plan that will seek to sustain the collaborative and the Raleigh Promise beyond the grant period and in perpetuity. It is our hope that students, faculty, and staff involved with the Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative will conduct research and engage in scholarly work related to this effort. One project that has already emerged is a student research competition in the College of Education that challenges graduate, undergraduate and high school students to develop, conduct and present a research study aligned with the goals and objectives of the Raleigh Colleges and Community Collaborative.

**For more information, contact**

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