

FINAL REPORT

2016 MINI CONNECTING IN NORTH CAROLINA (CINC) FACULTY/STAFF DEVELOPMENT TOUR

TOUR PURPOSE

This fourteenth modified development tour was successfully implemented May 24, 2016, with 21 participants. This one day and a half trek was designed to expose selected faculty and staff to a specific county of North Carolina - its people, its geography, its culture, its economy - allowing them to witness the tangible contributions made by NC State University as part of our land grant mission. The tour was an opportunity to increase an awareness of the diversity at NC State as well as to gain a greater appreciation for the rural culture that produces our students and employs our graduates.

The 2016 tour included participants from the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Textiles, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Design, College of Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, the Science House, NCSU Libraries, PowerAmerica, Shelton Leadership Center & the Alumni Association. As a result of this experience, faculty and staff commitment to and support of the institution's mission and goals were strengthened. They forged friendships with University colleagues outside their own disciplines which should stimulate joint research and extension initiatives leading to enhanced economic development. Furthermore, site hosts gained a better insight into the University and its community engagement focus by meeting the faculty face-to-face.

Mini CINC, sponsored by the Provost, the Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement, and the Vice Provost for Continuing Education, was organized and managed by the McKimmon Center for Extension and Continuing Education (MCE&CE) in cooperation with a task force consisting of staff from Lenoir Community College, a local farmer from Lenoir County, a local businessman from Kinston, Cooperative Extension staff, NC State Alumni relations staff and other key NC State staff members from Continuing Education and IES. Prior to the tour, the participants attended a mini tour orientation on May 11th and were given a detailed resource notebook which contained information relevant to Lenoir County and the sites comprising the one-day itinerary. The group of twenty-one left the campus and "hit-the-road" on May 24th for a bus tour that gave them a first-hand opportunity to get to know more about Lenoir County and Kinston, its native sons and daughters; to witness the economic development role of our University, and to better understand the impact of NC State University on the quality of life and livelihood of its citizens.

SITES VISITED

Site visitations or presentations at nine locations highlighted the 193 mile journey through Lenoir County. Diversity in size, scope and type of operation from traditional to higher technology was an important factor in site selection, with a conscious effort to represent as many of the ten academic disciplines and the state's major economic "engines" among those chosen. A prime emphasis in 2016 was to expose our participants to the real work world, average farmers in the area, an aerospace industry training center, a research farm working with NC State, an historical home revitalization project, a nationally known award winning chef, a local entrepreneur, the local farmers market and local businessmen and businesswomen. As typical, the Mini CINC tour included stops that have a relationship with NC State University in terms of personnel, college-level support, collaborative research projects, and/or joint extension initiatives.