

2020/2021 WILSON FORWARD IMPACT REPORT

Building partnerships for education, health & wellness,
and workforce development in Wilson, NC

CONNECT TO COMMUNITY

180 local leaders convened for annual meeting with presentations on health & wellness, education, and workforce development

25+ future leaders identified, trained, and deployed for the Wilson community through the Wilson Leadership Institute

Providing leadership and service to

23 organizations & councils

LEADERSHIP FOR IMPACT

24 leaders of anchor organizations serving as the board of directors to guide the work of Wilson forward.

50 partners serving as a board of advisors for the collaborations and partnerships for positive improvements in Wilson

COLLABORATE FOR CHANGE

90 partners from all sectors engaged through the Wilson Wellness Collaborative to improve health outcomes identified in a comprehensive community plan facilitated by Wilson Forward

INFORM TO ENGAGE

42 data measures of community information tracked on Wilson Forward website as a measurable and reliable reference to all partners

PARTNER FOR OPPORTUNITY

Impacted success for

21+ Initiatives
Grants
Collaborations



Wilson Forward represents all sectors of the community working together.

We create, support, and promote positive developments in our community. We build connections between people, organizations, opportunities, and shared resources. We tackle deeply entrenched and complex challenges while never losing sight of our community's best opportunities.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PAULA BENSON

A Year of Change...

Most of us react differently to the changes we create versus the changes that are imposed upon us. As we emerge from what seems to be the worst of the pandemic, we realize the enormous challenges our families, organizations, and communities will face in the months (and perhaps years) ahead. The past year has tested even the most resilient. None of us selected the social, professional, and health modifications imposed by the pandemic, but we wonder which changes are here to stay. What traditions will be permanently tweaked? Which of the new experiences have inspired us to work and play differently even post-pandemic? Many times, the greatest inventions and greatest ideas are created by doing things in different ways. For many years, the Wilson community has demonstrated the courage and ability to do big things in very different ways! **We. Are. Ready.**

We know there is a fragile balance between fatigue and optimism, but we are starting to reclaim what we appreciated in our old normal, and we are integrating some of the positive changes we have found through our new normal. With every challenge comes an opportunity, and over the past several months, we have been challenged to use the disruption of COVID-19 to engage the power of community collaboration. We have seen amazing support, positivity, and innovation in the midst of the pandemic, and we are eager to embrace the opportunities of the year ahead.



All the best,

Paula Benson
Executive Director
Wilson Forward

**WILSON
FORWARD**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PAULA BENSON (PBENSON@WILSONFORWARD.ORG)

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: CAMERON COCHRAN (COCHRAN@WILSONFORWARD.ORG)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONS COORDINATOR: CINDY MURPHY (ADMIN@WILSONFORWARD.ORG)

WILSON FORWARD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ex Officio Officers

Barton College President (Chair)*
Dr. Doug Searcy

City of Wilson Manager
Grant Goings

Healthcare Foundation of Wilson Exec. Director
Denise O'Hara

Wilson Chamber of Commerce President
Ryan Simons

Wilson Community College President
Dr. Tim Wright

Wilson County Manager
Denise Stinagle

Wilson County Schools Superintendent
Dr. Lane Mills

Wilson Economic Dev Council Exec Director
Jennifer Lantz

Wilson Medical Center CEO (At Large)*
Mark Holyoak

Wilson Times President and Publisher
Keven Zepezauer

Wilson Visitors Center Director
Sandra Homes

United Way of Wilson Exec. Director
Judi Thurston

Elected Officers

Agri-Business Representative (At Large)*
Pender Sharp

Attorney Representative (Past Chair)
Eliot Smith

Banking Representative (Treasurer)*
Wes Berry

City of Wilson Representative
Mayor Carlton Stevens

County Commissioner Representative
Rob Boyette

County Representative
Mayor Tommy Hawkins

Faith Representative
Tuck Taylor

Impact Initiative Representative
Rosario Ochoa

At-Large Members

Hank Butts, S.T. Wooten

Christy Proctor, Chick-fil-A (Vice Chair)*

Francisco Toste, Merck

Ken Jones, Retired

Michael Jones, 3C Store Fixtures (Secretary)*

*Executive Committee Member

CONNECT WITH WILSON FORWARD

WWW.WILSONFORWARD.ORG

