

2019 COMMUNITY IMPACT

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.

CONNECT To Community

Annual Meeting with Community

Convenes over 170 local leaders annually with keynote presentations on health/wellness, education, and workforce development

Community Leadership with Common Goals

Governed by engaged board of directors representing 24 leaders of anchor organizations who have strong attendance and a commitment to collaborative approaches for improvement in Wilson

Education and Support for Disease Prevention

Established partnership with Susan G Komen Foundation to host educational luncheon in spring of 2019 and potentially host future breast cancer research opportunities

Network for Young Professionals

Provided leadership to Gig360, a young professionals' network of more than 40 individuals in Wilson who are connecting with shared interests and ideas for Wilson

Connections to North Carolina Partners

Established membership to the exclusive network of NC Rural Center's Rural Economic Development Institute (REDI), a program to advance leaders of rural communities

Service and Leadership to Statewide Initiatives

Served as a statewide advisory leader to Institute of Emerging Issues forum as well as 1 of 4 reviewers to the 7-year evaluation of the Institute

Programming for Local Youth

Connected local partners to nationally acclaimed program leaders, facilitated program development discussions, and built local interest in a future after school middle school program
*With Healthcare Foundation of Wilson & YMCA

COLLABORATE For Change

Advisory Board to Guide Community Initiatives

Joins over 50 partners from local organizations to serve as advisors for the collaborations and partnerships for positive improvements in Wilson

Comprehensive Community Health Plan

Developed a comprehensive community improvement health plan with over 75 partners in the *Wilson Wellness Collaborative*, a group dedicated to improving specific needs and focus areas
*With Wilson Co. DSS and Health Dept.

Network for Faith Leaders

Initiated opportunities to host conversations with over 40 community faith leaders to support and participate in local initiatives and partnerships

Coordinating Resources

Facilitated multiple meetings to establish future Wilson Food Council, to improve access to healthy foods, and to coordinate local food resources
*With City of Wilson

Exploration for Economic Growth

Facilitated discussions and site visits for local and state leaders to evaluate potential economic opportunities relevant to the Wilson agribusiness community

Streamlining Workforce Partnerships

Convened local education and workforce development partners to evaluate and pursue potential opportunities and resources to advance our unemployed/underemployed residents

Active Engagement with Community Councils

Engaged as community representative to numerous local councils and committees dedicated to the improvement of workforce, education, and health and wellness

CREATE Opportunity

Centralized Data Site

Provides data site for all community partners to reference and measure reliable and consistent data for education, health and wellness, and workforce development

ServiceNC Community

Established Wilson as 1 of 4 ServiceNC communities to host 5 AmeriCorps VISTAs in local agencies for the past 3 years; each VISTA provides strong leadership and capacity building for host agencies
*With United Way

Leadership Development for Professionals in Wilson

Trained and deployed over 25 new leaders through the *Wilson Leadership Institute*, an 18 mo. program to establish a strong leadership pipeline for local Wilson organizations and public service
*With Chamber of Commerce

Pathways for College Bound Students and Parents

Provided an annual event (*College Matters*) for high school students to connect with resources and information to support their college application process
*With YMCA & Educational Partners

Comprehensive Community Calendar

Expanded partnerships and local commitment for participation in the Wilson community calendar, *Explore Wilson*
*With City of Wilson & Arts Council of Wilson

Leadership Development for High School Students

Trained over 300 high school juniors (since 2013) through the *Young Leaders Institute*, a program designed to strengthen the leadership skills of our local students
*With YMCA and Educational Partners

InnovateNC Community

Established Wilson as 1 of 5 *InnovateNC* communities to lead economic expansion and supported application process for \$1.1 million grant from the *Golden LEAF Foundation* to fund the *Gig East Exchange*
*With City of Wilson
*Local Partnering Agencies

Collaboration is Our Core Value

Wilson Forward believes that collaboration makes Wilson stronger; therefore, we approach every community opportunity and challenge through a collaborative lens, bringing a team of community leaders and partners together.

Our mission:

is to improve educational opportunities, health and wellness and workforce development in Wilson.

Our vision:

Wilson is a place where people want to live and work and is a community with a high quality of life for all.



CONNECT: SHARING · LEARNING · NETWORKING

NACCHO (National Association of City and County Health Officials)	Participated in national conference focused on collaborative approaches to support community health
Home of Future Thinking NC	Served as plenary panelist to share Wilson's work and participation in regional workforce development
NC Family Forward Summit	Represented Wilson in statewide conference evaluating ideas to support family friendly workplaces
NC Health Officials Conference	Provided presentation to NC Health officials for best practices and approaches to collaborative community partnerships
Collective Impact National Forum	Represented Wilson in national conference for backbone organizations leading collective impact
NC Rural Assembly and NC Rural Day	Joined local partners for NC Rural Center's conferences to highlight local strategies for improvements in rural NC communities
Ready By 21 National Conference	Participated in national conference focused on youth support systems and programming; identified areas of opportunity in Pre-K and early childhood; strengthened relationships with after-school programming agencies

LEADERSHIP: WILSON FORWARD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ex Officio Directors

Barton College President
Dr. Doug Searcy *

City of Wilson Manager
Mr. Grant Goings

Healthcare Foundation of Wilson Exec Dir
Mrs. Denise O'Hara

Wilson Chamber of Commerce President
Mr. Ryan Simons

Wilson Community College President
Dr. Tim Wright

Wilson County Manager
Mrs. Denise Stinagle

Wilson County Schools Superintendent
Dr. Lane Mills

Economic Development Council Exec Dir
Ms. Jennifer Lantz

Wilson Medical Center CEO
Mr. Mark Holyoak *

Wilson Times General Manager
Mr. Keven Zepezauer

Wilson Visitors Center Director
Mrs. Sandra Homes

United Way of Wilson Exec Dir
Ms. Judi Thurston

Elected Directors

Agri-Business Representative
Mr. Pender Sharp

Attorney Representative
Mr. Eliot Smith (Past Chair)

Banking Representative
Mr. Wes Berry (Treasurer)

City of Wilson Representative
Mayor Bruce Rose

County Commissioner Representative
Mr. Rob Boyette

County Representative
Mayor Tommy Hawkins

Faith Representative
Rev. Tuck Taylor

Wilson Leadership Institute Representative
Mrs. Rosario Ochoa

At-Large Members

Mr. Ken Jones, *Retired* *

Mr. Michael Jones, *3C Store Fixtures* *

Ms. Christy Proctor, *Chick-Fil-A* *

Mrs. Amanda Taylor, *Merck*

*Executive Committee Member

For More Information Visit www.WilsonForward.org

