



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY AT
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

Whereas, the oral health needs across the state of North Carolina are great, and are due in part to a severe shortage of dentists in rural areas, and particularly in the rural eastern counties of the state with the shortage expected to escalate in the coming years; and

Whereas, North Carolina ranks forty-seventh among the states in terms of dentists per ten thousand population with twenty-eight counties having two or less dentists, seventy-nine counties being federally designated dental shortage areas, and four counties in eastern North Carolina having no dentists; and

Whereas, oral health has been shown to be closely related to overall wellness and poor oral health has an untold economic impact on the state of North Carolina, and particularly in eastern North Carolina, due to loss of work, a diminished workforce, a rise in health insurance costs, and costs to the state for oral health care of the uninsured; and

Whereas, East Carolina University has demonstrated its capacity to meet the needs of the state and region with the mission and programs of the Brody School of Medicine, and

Whereas, East Carolina University can employ its successful community-based model of health care preparation in the area of dentistry by emphasizing general dentistry for those desiring to practice in rural North Carolina, by providing educational opportunities to minority and disadvantaged students; and by increasing access to dental care in the rural and underserved area of North Carolina; and

Whereas, the proposed school of dentistry will include the operation of distributed clinics in the underserved areas of North Carolina which will result in both a health and an economic benefit to the county, region, and state; and

Whereas, financial support and assistance from the state of North Carolina is critical to achieve the goal of improving the oral and general health of all its citizens, which will eventually lessen the financial strain on the state presently required to deal with the effects of poor oral health in the state of North Carolina and in eastern North Carolina in particular;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce requests that all consideration be given by the North Carolina General Assembly to support the efforts of the University of North Carolina in addressing its proposal for funding of collaborative dental education preparation for the benefit of all the people of North Carolina at the dental school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and through the establishment of a new dental school at East Carolina University to be located in Greenville, in Pitt County, North Carolina.

Approved by the Board of Directors this 27th day of April, 2006.

Frankie Beeker, Chairman
2006 Board of Directors

Susanne D. Sartelle, CCE
President