

# the BUSINESS Partner

A publication of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce  
in partnership with The Daily Reflector



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NOVEMBER 2018

## SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL GOLDEN GALA

**Saturday, January 19, 2019 • 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**  
**Hilton Greenville**

The Chamber's annual Golden Gala membership celebration observes the past year's accomplishments and recognizes the 2018 Citizen of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, and Young Professional of the Year. The event includes live entertainment, great food, and fun!

For more information, visit [greenvillenc.org/goldengala](http://greenvillenc.org/goldengala).



## 2018 HEALTH CARE SUMMIT

**Thursday, November 15**  
**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**  
**Hilton Greenville**



Receiving and paying for medical care is ever-changing. In order to effectively navigate these changes, employers, providers, and consumers need to understand how these modifications will impact the health care market in Pitt County and North Carolina. Our expert panelists will discuss how health care decisions will impact your business moving forward.

**Presented by:**



Visit [greenvillenc.org/events](http://greenvillenc.org/events) to register.

## POWER '18 SERIES

**“Delevoping Transportation Today to  
Address Pitt-Greenville Needs Tomorrow”**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2018**  
**12 NOON - 1:00 PM • Hilton Greenville**



**Guest Speaker:**

**Ryan Purtle**  
Transportation Planner  
City of Greenville

**Presented by:**



Visit [www.greenvillenc.org/events](http://www.greenvillenc.org/events) to register.

## Message from the Chamber Staff

1,850 miles, twenty-seven hours of I-40, two dogs, and a two year old.

Welcome to eastern North Carolina!

Foremost, I'd like to begin this note by thanking you, members of the Chamber and the Greenville community at large, for the kind and gracious welcome my family and I have received over the past two months. Many of our friends and family in New Mexico questioned our sanity when we informed them of our intent to relocate nearly two thousand miles from home. However, after two months and a couple of hurricanes, I can truthfully say that we are both excited to be here in the land of pirates. Becky and I truly believe that we could not have picked a friendlier, more inviting community to raise our son than right here in Pitt County.

It is equally exciting to see the economic momentum that is building in the region. Everywhere I turn, (usually as a result of being lost) I see signs of a growing and prosperous economy. New buildings are going up, homes are being built, farms are producing, small businesses are cutting ribbons, and Uptown is bustling. Pitt County's unemployment rate is below pre-recession levels while real personal income has steadily increased in recent years. In this time of Thanksgiving, we truly do have many blessings to count.

While there are numerous signs of economic progress throughout the city and county, there is still much to be achieved. Nearly one in four of our Pitt County neighbors are living in poverty. State and national policymakers continue to search for an effective and efficient way to address the health insurance coverage gap that affects so many of our most vulnerable citizens. ECU's Brody School of Medicine is in desperate need of a modernization. Outside economic development investments are lagging behind our neighboring counties.

I mention these issues as I want you to know that your Chamber is listening. These are the issues that we've heard repeatedly during our conversations with members, civic leaders, and business owners. We've heard you and, soon enough, so will others. Together with our members, we are diligently working to increase the collective voice of eastern North Carolina through an active public policy agenda.

This public policy agenda, while still new, is beginning to take hold. Recently, the Chamber Board of Directors boldly voted to support the continued development of a public-private partnership focused on aligning the economic development resources of the city, county, and private sector. Later this week the Chamber will host state and national policy experts for a discussion around innovative healthcare coverage options. Then, in early December, the Chamber will release its legislative agenda for the 2019 legislative session. This agenda will reflect not only the Chamber's stance on policy issues, but will also serve as a rubric to evaluate legislator responsiveness to the needs of eastern North Carolinians.

As we prepare for the coming legislative season, know that the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce will continue to work for you, our members, to promote solid public policy strategies for the betterment of all of Pitt County.

Derrick Welch  
Director of Public Policy  
Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce



Derrick Welch

## Ambassador Spotlight

• **Noreen Jaafar:** "Being a Chamber Ambassador provides the opportunity for me to learn more about our community and network with our local leaders. For my employer, it means providing community service and networking with other community-involved individuals and companies. I see myself making an impact on the community by spreading news about the services and products that will help our local businesses grow in the east."



Noreen Jaafar  
WNCT 9 On Your Side

## WHY JOIN THE CHAMBER?

WE HELP YOUR BUSINESS



For more information, call Jackie Listecki at (252) 752-4101 ext. 223.

## TRAVEL WITH THE CHAMBER IN 2019



**FROM THE ALPS  
TO THE ADRIATIC**  
DEPARTS: MARCH 18, 2019

**EXPLORE CHINA**  
DEPARTS: APRIL 19, 2019

**NOVA SCOTIA & THE  
CANADIAN MARITIMES**  
DEPARTS: AUGUST 14, 2019

The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce coordinates affordable international trips for both Chamber members as well as the general public to give the Pitt County community a look at the global economy. These once in a lifetime opportunities provide a unique educational and cultural experience for members of our community and guests. We invite you to participate in our upcoming trips.

For more information, please visit [www.greenvillenc.org/trips](http://www.greenvillenc.org/trips) or call Jackie Listecki at (252) 752-4101 ext. 223.

# Focus on Business ... Spotlights, Ribbon Cuttings and News!

• **Drs. Bowman, Padgett and Associates** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, October 11 to celebrate their new location at 1720 W. Arlington Boulevard in Greenville. The capable dentists at Bowman, Padgett and Associates have more than 45 years of combined dental experience. As a result, they have developed a comprehensive understanding of all dental matters and provide a vast array of effective dental services to their patients. For more information, visit Bowman, Padgett and Associates online at [bowmanpadgett.com](http://bowmanpadgett.com) or call (252) 391-9333.



• **E & S Hemp Company** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 26 at 675 W. Fire Tower Road in Winterville. If you're looking for top quality CBD oil for sale, E & S Hemp Company provides the best CBD and Hemp products that promote a healthy mind and body. Their passion is improving the lives of their customers, and they're committed to offering only the safest, purest and most beneficial CBD oils and products. For more information, visit E & S Hemp Company online at [eshempcompany.com](http://eshempcompany.com) or call (252) 689-6054.



• **Newk's Eatery Greenville** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 12 at 516-A SE Greenville Boulevard in Greenville. Newk's fresh-made food starts with impeccable ingredients and they go the extra mile to source only the finest flavors. Whether it's a quick lunch, family meal or office catering, you always get the best from Newk's Eatery. Their best soups, amazing sandwich and salad menu, flavorful pizza and more will have your taste buds singing. For more information, visit Newk's Eatery online at [newks.com](http://newks.com) or call (252) 351-8393.



• **The Beth L. Deal Financial Advisory Group** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, October 30 at 1604 E. Fire Tower Road, Suite C, in Greenville. The Beth L. Deal Financial Advisory Group will work with you over time to help you plan to achieve your financial goals based on what is truly important to you – and adapt to any changes along the way. Their areas of focus include, but are not limited to: Tax Planning Strategies, Retirement Income Strategies, Intergenerational Planning, Saving for Education, Insurance, and Investments. For more information, email [Travis.Warren@ampf.com](mailto:Travis.Warren@ampf.com) or call (252) 558-0944.



• **Postal Annex** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, October 18 at 2120 E. Fire Tower Road #107 in Greenville. Postal Annex is your neighborhood business service center, offering many needed services under one roof. If you're a small business or home owner, Postal Annex can save you time and travel by offering you shipping with your choice of carriers, private mailbox rental for keeping your home private and secure, copy services, notary public services, office supplies and much more. For more information, visit Postal Annex online at [postalannex.com](http://postalannex.com) or call (252) 689-6920.



• **Vidant Home Health and Hospice** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, November 6 at 920 Wellness Drive in Greenville. Vidant Health Home and Hospice provides home health services in 17 counties in eastern North Carolina – Beaufort, Bertie, Chowan, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Hertford, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Onslow, Pender, Pitt, Sampson, Washington, Wayne and Wilson. Home health offices are located in Greenville, Kenansville, Washington and Windsor. Hospice services are provided in 20 counties of eastern North Carolina. For more information, visit Vidant Health Home and Hospice online at [vidanthealth.com](http://vidanthealth.com) or call (252) 847-2000.



# ECU partners with community colleges to improve transfer student access, success

East Carolina University and 18 community colleges in the surrounding region have signed a co-admission agreement designed to improve transfer student access and success through a collaborative degree completion program.

Pirate Promise allows students to apply to a participating community college and ECU simultaneously and commit to maintaining full-time status. Upon completing an associate degree, they will transition into degree-completion programs at ECU.

“Our most fundamental goal is to make college attendance a far less daunting endeavor for these students who might not think that going to college is within their reach,” said Dr. Ron Mitchelson, ECU Provost. “In particular we want these students to understand that the community college/university pathway is very cost effective and to ensure that the transfer from the community college to the university is relatively seamless.”

In addition to saving money by completing the first two years of a four-year degree at a community college, benefits to students include access to ECU libraries and programming through the ECU Office of Student Activities and other organizations, ECU One Card eligibility, joint financial aid counseling and micro-scholarship opportunities, joint academic advising, and a waiver of the ECU transfer application fee.

Participating community colleges include Beaufort County Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Carteret Community College, College of the Albemarle, Craven Community College, Edgecombe Community College, Halifax Community College, Johnston Community College, Lenoir Community College, Martin Community College, Nash Community College, Pamlico Community College, Pitt Community College, Roanoke-Chowan Community College, Sampson Community College, Wake Technical Community College, Wayne Community College and Wilson Community College.

ECU’s chancellor, Dr. Cecil Staton, said that on average, students who transfer from community colleges after receiving an associate degree outperform traditional students. “It’s very important that we provide those pathways ... to come here and complete their education, and for those pathways to be easier and more



The Pirate Promise co-admission program is a partnership between ECU and 18 community colleges aimed at improving access and success for transfer students. (Photo by University Communications)

accessible, where the barriers are taken away, in order for them to achieve that baccalaureate degree,” he said.

Mitchelson said the program will help make students aware of the academic programs, facilities and services that ECU offers. “We want these students to understand the career pathways that they consider with sufficient detail to choose courses wisely,” he said. “As much as possible, we want these future Pirates to experience campus life and to engage in the rich activities that we have to offer them, ranging from the arts to athletics.”

The Pirate Promise co-admission program, said Staton, will be a boon to both ECU and the community colleges in producing the teachers, nurses, engineers, business leaders and health professionals that the region needs to meet its future workforce demands.

## Renewing Members



The following businesses have recently renewed their Chamber membership for another year. Remember to do business with fellow Chamber members.

- Blackbeard Coffee Roasters, LLC
- Clegg’s Termite & Pest Control, Inc.
- Golden Corral
- Greenville Veterans Affairs Health Care Center
- H. Edwin Gray, CPA, PA
- ITravel with Iris, LLC
- It’s Sew Wright
- O’Donahue Chiropractic
- Pink a Lilly Pulitzer Signature Store
- Reminiscing With Me
- Synco Properties
- Tami Lynn Home Team
- Teach For America - Eastern North Carolina
- Transamerica



## New Members

The following businesses have recently joined the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. We welcome them and encourage you to do business with them.

- Alcova Mortgage
- ARCpoint Labs of ENC
- Chick-fil-A - Greenville Mall
- Children’s Home Society of North Carolina
- Cryofit NC
- Dex Imaging Inc.
- MELT Fitness Studio
- Perry Friend - Alcova Mortgage
- The Heather Stepp Real Estate Group
- Towne Bank