

# the **BUSINESS** Partner

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SEPTEMBER 2019

## 2019-2020 TEEN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



The Teen Leadership Institute (TLI) is entering its 32nd year of building youth leaders in Greenville-Pitt County. Through education, networking, peer interaction, problem solving and project cooperation, the TLI helps prepare students for constructive and responsible involvement in community affairs, while also thinking seriously about their career pathways. Students from area high schools (sophomores and juniors only) are eligible to participate.

For more information, visit [greenvillenc.org/tli](http://greenvillenc.org/tli) or contact Kimber Stone at (252) 752-4101 ext. 2222.

## LEADERSHIP EVENT Attitude of a Champion Leader



Tuesday, October 22, 2019 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
ECU Murphy Center (Harvey Hall) • 100 Ficklen Drive

Over the last 20 years, more than a million people have experienced the power of professional speaker and presenter Aaron Davis. His contagious presentation style, coupled with actionable advice, emotional insights, and tangible takeaways have made Aaron one of the most sought-after speakers in the United States.

Presented By:



Gold Sponsor:



Silver Sponsor:

East Carolina University

For more information and to register online, visit [greenvillenc.org/championleader](http://greenvillenc.org/championleader).

## 2019 Education Summit

Wednesday, September 25, 2019  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Hilton Greenville



Guest Speaker: Peyton Holland  
*Executive Director, SkillsUSA  
North Carolina*

Peyton Holland is a sought-after speaker on the topics of the Next Generation Workforce, the Skills Gap, Mentorship and Leadership Development.

Presented By:



Silver Sponsors:

Greenville Utilities Commission  
NC Biotechnology Center

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

## From the Chamber Staff

Hi, I'm Kimber Stone, Director of Member Relations & Programs at the Greenville Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. As staff liaison, it is a pleasure to oversee programs the Chamber offers. This month, the Chamber welcomes 30 participants into the 2020 Leadership Institute Class as we strive to shape future leaders and provide skills and insights for current leaders. The Leadership Institute, presented by Vidant Medical Center, is a unique, quality program offered to participants, providing a professional development session with Dr.



Kimber Stone

Andy Herdman of Mayne Pharma, as well as an in-depth view into all aspects of business, education, and community of Greenville and Pitt County. Additionally, the participants are divided into groups, completing a community project presented at graduation, as a way to leave a mark on Greenville and Pitt County. Not only do these leaders have the opportunity to grow professionally, but they also engage and learn more about our community, all while building lasting connections and friendships with their fellow classmates. Having the opportunity to oversee and coordinate the eight-month program is an honor, but developing a relationship, seeing these individuals grow, and the impact they leave on the community gives me great pride as we begin our year together. For a complete list of this year's participants, visit [greenvillenc.org/leadership](http://greenvillenc.org/leadership).

The Chamber is also working diligently to prepare for upcoming events and continues to work toward fulfilling the initiatives outlined in the Chamber's strategic plan to be the recognized leader for business success, strategic economic growth, and community development. We are excited to bring back a leadership event this year and will host keynote speaker, Aaron Davis. As a member of the Nebraska 1994 national championship football team and the author of three books, Aaron has a keen understanding of what it takes to achieve incredible results. Aaron's message will focus on the attitudes of a Champion Leader and how attitudes shape not only us, but the things we do on a daily basis as well as the teams we work with and for. Aaron has spoken for companies such as PayPal, Walmart, Goodyear, Applebee's and the University of Florida to name a few, and we are quite excited to have him coming to Greenville. The event is scheduled for October 22 at the ECU Murphy Center. We hope our members will choose to take part in this unique event. Please visit [greenvillenc.org/championleader](http://greenvillenc.org/championleader) for more information.

Thank you to our community for supporting the Leadership Institute program, welcoming us into your place of business for tours, and for sending participants year after year. We look forward to another great year with these incoming participants and are thankful for our strong community partnerships and the opportunity to assemble our members that share a passion for being a Champion Leader. It is an honor to work with each of you.

Sincerely,

Kimber Stone  
Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce

## Ambassador Spotlight

• **Randy Draper:** "Being a Chamber Ambassador allows me to be more involved in my community. I have met many people in this role that otherwise I may have never met. The Chamber leadership has provided the Ambassadors with unique community service opportunities that many of us may not have experienced on our own. The Ambassador program has also allowed me to learn more about the terrific work that so many of our local businesses do throughout our community. I've been blessed to work for Transamerica for over 26 years. They are supportive of my role as an Ambassador as they encourage their employees to be involved in their local communities. A Chamber Ambassador serves as a liaison between the Chamber of Commerce and the local business community."



Randy Draper  
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.

- Camesha Brown, Keller Williams Points East Realtor
- Davis Meticulous Lawn Care Business
- Enrichment Strategist Services
- FNC (Fixed-NC)

## POWER '19 SERIES

### September Power Luncheon



**Dan Gerlach, Interim Chancellor  
East Carolina University**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019**

**12 Noon - 1:00 PM**

**Hilton Greenville • 207 SW Greenville Blvd.**

#### Gold Sponsors:

ECS Southeast

Hill, Chesson & Woody (A Gallagher Company)

Igoe Creative

MHAworks

Raymond James

Transworld Business Advisors

Presented by:



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

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

• **Lee Kia of Greenville** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, August 14 to celebrate the grand re-opening of their newly remodeled showroom at 615 SW Greenville Boulevard in Greenville. Lee Kia has one of the largest inventories of new and used cars for sale in region. Lee Kia of Greenville is committed to providing you with the best customer experience - from hassle-free sales to easy financing all the way through to excellent service after the sale to keep your car, truck, SUV or van running like new. Visit their showroom today or browse their inventory online at [leekiaofgreenville.com](http://leekiaofgreenville.com).



• **McDonald's** held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 4 to celebrate their newly renovated location at 310 E. 10th Street in Greenville. From the start, McDonald's has been committed to doing the right thing and every day, they put people, processes and practices into place to make quality food, more responsible sourcing choices, a stronger community and a better planet. With nine locations to serve you in Pitt County, McDonald's strives to offer a diverse menu to give their customers the meal and snacking options they need for their entire family. For more information, visit McDonald's online at [mcdonalds.com](http://mcdonalds.com).



• **Follow the Son Child Care Center** and The Executive Center for Economic & Educational Development, Inc. (Exceed) partnered together, on Thursday, August 1, to host a farmers market. Follow the Son Child Care received a grant from NC State through the Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children. The children and staff grew their own fruits and vegetables, some of which were served during meals at the center. Because of the abundance of the harvest, the children wanted to host a farmers market. It was a huge success! There was so much support from the families of the children served at the center and the community, that they sold out of everything! WNCT-TV 9 came out and did an Online Original story about the farmers market, and 252 Buzz came out and took pictures! One of the candidates for mayor of Greenville, Mrs. Renee Boston-Hill, came out to support the children.



• **The Eastern Carolina Vocational Center (ECVC)** will hold its 54th Anniversary Banquet on Thursday, October 3, at 6:30 p.m., at Rock Springs Center. Each year, ECVC strives to increase awareness of the abilities of persons with disabilities and their contribution to the workforce at their annual banquet. The focus of the event is to promote the continued inclusion for people with disabilities within our community and to empower them to reach their full potential. This year's guest speaker is Kathy Buckley. Kathy is a five-time American Comedy Awards Nominee as Best Stand-Up Female Comedienne and the winner of countless other awards for her work. She is also an actress, writer and producer, author, humanitarian, and one of the country's leading motivational speakers. For more information, visit [ecvcinc.com](http://ecvcinc.com).



• **The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina** will hold a 20th Anniversary Open House Reception on Thursday, September 19, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at its Greenville Branch, located at 1712 Union Street in Greenville. This event is meant to honor the community, donors, volunteers, and partner agencies who have provided food, volunteer hours, and monetary support making it possible to serve neighbors in the region experiencing food-insecurity. September is also Hunger Action Month and the Food Bank will be sharing some simple ways to spread the word about the continued work of the Food Bank. For more information, contact George Young at [gyoung@FoodBankCENC.org](mailto:gyoung@FoodBankCENC.org).



• **Appogee**, a company that serves as the Apple vendor to Fortune 1000 accounts across the US, was recently named one of Americas fastest-growing private companies by Inc. magazine. Appogee is No. 2769 overall and No. 16 in Computer Hardware on Inc. magazine's annual 5000 list, the most prestigious ranking of the nation's fastest-growing companies. For more information, visit Appogee's Greenville location at 418 Evans Street, Suite 201 or visit them online at [appogee.com](http://appogee.com).



# NEW ECU PROGRAM HELPS FORMER PIRATES COMPLETE THE VOYAGE

As nearly 29,000 students started classes at East Carolina University in August, there were a handful who have returned to complete a journey they started years — or even decades — ago.

Each year there are students who don't return to school for a variety of reasons. Some go to work, others start families, and some face financial issues. The attrition rate from freshman to sophomore year alone is nearly 20%. But there are some Pirates who jump ship when they're much closer to the end of the voyage than the beginning.

Those are the ones targeted by a new program known as Partway Home, or the FINISH initiative. A collaborative effort among academic advising, the registrar's office and individual academic departments, the program targets former students who have more than 90 credit hours, recruiting them to return to ECU to finish what they started.

"We've heard so many different reasons why people decided not to come back," said Dr. Steven Asby, associate director of academic advising and support. Some intend to return, but "as the years pile up, it gets really hard to get back into the groove."

The Partway Home program is aimed at providing support for those students and streamlining the process of completing their coursework. In many cases, the course requirements for their programs have changed, or they may not know about the university's grade forgiveness policy, which allows failing grades to be dropped from the GPA calculation for students who haven't been enrolled for two years, Asby said.

Eleven students completed their degrees during the program's pilot year in 2018-19, and dozens more are now in the pipeline. Notable on the list are former football standouts David Garrard and Chris Johnson, both enrolled for this fall.

One Partway Home student is Caren Wharton of Four Oaks, who left ECU to go to work. Then family became her first priority. She raised four sons as

a stay-at-home mom, then returned to the workplace as a teacher assistant.

"I always had a dream of finishing my degree, I just never knew when the right time would be," she said.

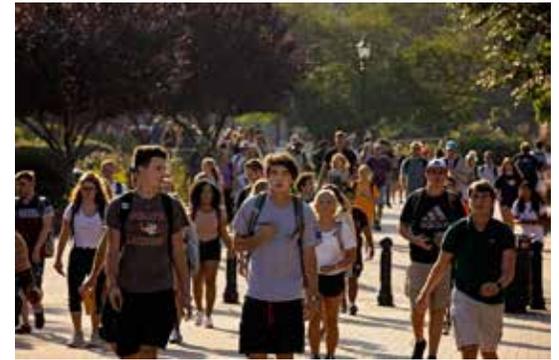
Now, with her oldest son in the U.S. Army and two in high school, she said the time felt right. It didn't hurt that Nathan, her second eldest son, had applied and enrolled at ECU.

Wharton plans to complete a Bachelor of Science in university studies and a minor in psychology in 2020, after which she'd like to pursue a master's degree or licensure in counseling.

"Partway Home has been a blessing to me!" she said. "All of my credits were kept and put toward my degree. It has made it so easy to jump back into things and has made my dream of finishing my degree a reality." Provost Ron Mitchelson said the program is a win-win for the students and the university.

"Each year ECU witnesses a significant number of students who are nearly finished with a degree program but then fail to enroll even though they are in good standing," he said. "They leave for a wide variety of reasons, but we will not let them disappear. We want them to finish and fully benefit from the investments that they and the institution have made."

For more information visit <https://finish.ecu.edu/>.



## Renewing Members

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

- Alcovia Mortgage
- Alexander Paul Institute of Hair Design
- Anderson Truss Company, Inc.
- AR Workshop Greenville NC
- ASAP Photo & Camera
- Cellular Sales Verizon Authorized Retailer
- Creative Wellness For You
- Dream Factory of North Carolina
- Eastern Pines Dental, Marcus Brian Ward, DMD, PA
- Furniture Distributors
- GarNet Holdings LLC
- Hoyt Family Wealth Management, LLC
- Ingage Advertising Agency
- It's So Wright
- Koinonia Christian Center Church
- Mario E. Perez
- Michels & Gauquie, DDS
- Milestone Wealth
- Newk's Eatery Greenville
- Off Road Realty, LLC
- Planet Fitness
- Roebuck Staffing
- Salt Wood Products, Inc.
- Sarah Blackman at Hairwaves
- Sentinel Risk Advisors
- State Farm, Chris Godley Agent
- Synco Properties
- Telco Credit Union
- TES Logistics
- Towne Bank
- Tyre Realty Group
- Village Pawn
- Winterville Charter Academy