

Mission: Preparing diverse students for success in the 21st Century, Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) offers quality educational programs at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. Students are engaged in active and experiential learning and have access to education through flexible delivery modes. The university is dedicated to the development of students through excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. As a comprehensive, historically black constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, WSSU contributes to the social, cultural, intellectual, and economic growth of the region, North Carolina and beyond.

WSSU'S ROLE IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WSSU has actively pursued the goals established by the UNC system in its *UNC Tomorrow* initiative, by continuing to focus on its historical mission of serving minority and economically disadvantaged populations, and also by leveraging its assets in the broader region that includes many rural and economically disadvantaged communities. In addition to direct economic impact, WSSU provides an equally valuable contribution to the area's communities through the development of human capital.

The School of Health Sciences (SOHS) graduates over 100 traditional nurses and 300 RN to BSN nurses annually at the undergraduate level and 30 family nurse practitioners and 10 nurse educators at the graduate level – making it the third largest producer of nurses in the State. The SOHS' RAMS Know How mobile health unit is estimated to have provided \$250,000 of free services in its first year. Furthermore, the physical therapy department has provided over \$300,000 in free services since its inception.

The College of Arts and Sciences prepares students for careers in technical fields such as network design and software programming in addition to management information systems (MIS). These programs are supported by a \$13 million state-of-the-art facility which was designed and equipped with the latest computer, Internet and communications technologies. A new biotechnology degree program will be taught in a new \$70 million, 160,000 sq.ft. Biotechnology Research Facility in Winston-Salem's Piedmont Triad Research Park.

**Teaching & Learning:** Through the Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy, a local public high school, WSSU lends its expertise and research insights to build a new curriculum that creates a performance-based, student-centered environment more like those seen at the collegiate level. The academy serves as a "real world" learning laboratory for WSSU students, and a focal point for faculty research.

**Research:** Over the past 5 years, WSSU has received 327 awards for over \$66,103,701 in external funding for research, instruction and public service initiatives. Our Funding sources include federal, state, local government and private entities.

The Biomedical Research Infrastructure Center (BRIC) is dedicated to basic biomedical and translational research to promote the understanding and prevention of human diseases including heart disease, cancer, drug addiction, neurological disorders and pain. Areas of research include biochemical and cellular mechanisms, neuropathology, genetic control of cell growth and differentiation as well as tissue damage and regeneration. BRIC's research in improving minority health is the foundation for new strategies, vaccines and diagnostics necessary to reduce mortality rate in the minority community.

The Center for Community Safety (CCS) engages communities in the strategic utilization of research to shape action and enhance response to community safety issues. The CCS has been selected by the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety to conduct a statewide assessment of racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. The CCS will make formal presentations of the findings and recommendations to GCC members and the state DMC Committee this December.

The Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities is an interdisciplinary, intra-institutional applied health services and research center to improve minority health outcomes and eliminate health disparities within the community, state and nation through research, education, and community outreach activities.

The Enterprise Center, a project of the Simon Green Atkins Community Development Corporation at WSSU is a 40,000 sq. ft. training center, incubator, and community hub. The center offers technical assistance, classroom and lab space, and business amenities, giving start-up and emerging companies exceptional support during their formative stage. The Center launched in summer 2011.