



**NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL
AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY**

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

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Board of Trustees Retreat
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AGGIES **DO**

Outline

- Definition and Purpose—Centers of Excellence
- Center characteristics
- Approach
 - » Feasibility study
 - » Development plan
- Potential centers
- Discussion

Definition and Purpose—Centers of Excellence

- A **center of excellence** (COE) might be a team, a shared space or any entity that provides leadership, research, best practices, training and/or support for a focus area of learning and growth or performance. The focus area might be a technology (e.g. Java), a business concept (e.g. BPM), a skill (e.g. negotiation) or a broad area of study (e.g. diabetes care).
- A **center of excellence** may also refer to a network of institutions collaborating with each other to pursue excellence in a particular area.^[2] (e.g. the [Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Math and Science](#)). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Center_of_excellence.

The primary **purpose** of a center of excellence is to lead others in an area of focus, e.g., in improving business processes in the institution or in producing more successful entrepreneurs from among our students, faculty and staff.

Center Characteristics

- Advances land-grant mission by addressing societal or commercial need
- Supports faculty to pursue projects that cross department lines
- Builds partnerships with government and industry
- Fosters interdisciplinary expertise
- Promotes university-centric processes
- Strengthens university brand
- Enhances agility in managing projects

Approach—Phase I

- Feasibility study
- Development plan

Feasibility Study (Jul-Aug)

- Describe thrust area in general terms
- Identify
 - » government agencies funding it at high priority
 - » companies investing in it, might relocate here, hire our students
 - » related academic programs
 - » current faculty active in the area
 - » student assistantships/scholarships/fellowships in this area
 - » laboratories and equipment available
 - » partnerships
 - » funding sources
- Conference of selected deans, chairs, staff from AA, DORED, B&F, HR

Development Plan (Sep-Oct)

- Goals, scope of center
- Faculty hiring plan
- Director, laboratory technician, administrative support
- Space acquisition/leasing cost: fixed, recurring
- Equipment and information technology upgrades
- New academic program proposals
- Prepare to submit proposals for external funding
- Marketing strategy

Potential Centers

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Cybersecurity
- Entrepreneurship
- Public opinion/polling