

Acknowledgements

One cannot speak about the future without acknowledging the past. Over the last three decades several organizations and individuals have provided the vision, leadership and hard work that created the foundation for the North Carolina Progress Board. They were determined that North Carolina would be a great state in the future, and they created or led a series of future-oriented commissions, studies and reports that inspired generations of state policymakers.

So, this report is grounded in the earlier work of former Governors Bob Scott and Jim Hunt; former UNC President Bill Friday and Duke University President Nannerl Keohane; Betty Owen, Mack Pearsall, Tom Lambeth and Rick Carlisle. The initiatives they supported included: the State Goals and Policies Board; N.C. 2000; the Commission for a Competitive North Carolina, and the Emerging Issues Forum. Governor Mike Easley has continued that tradition as chair of the current N.C. Progress Board. We salute them for having the courage to take the long view, because that view is not always rosy, nor necessarily politically popular.

The Progress Board staff would especially like to thank the members of the North Carolina Progress Board. Many boards meet just once a year and rarely get below the surface of the subject matter, but this Board took its responsibility very seriously and held numerous meetings, teleconferences and community forums throughout the year. They envisioned and discussed all of the goals, measures and targets, and debated the best strategies for moving North Carolina forward.

Recent and current Board members include: Governors Mike Easley, Jim Hunt and Bob Scott; former Chief Justice Burley Mitchell; Dr. Doug Orr, Janice Cole, Clark Plexico, Senator Steve Metcalf, Dr. Delilah Blanks, Jim Goodman, Representative Phil Baddour, Harrison Hickman, Daniel Dawson, Leigh Harvey McNairy, David Dodson, Randall Kaplan, Roger Perry, Will Spence, Sharon Decker, Senator A.B. Swindell, Dr. Jim Leutze, Phil Kirk, Bill Gibson, and Selby Wellman.

The development of this report has been a statewide effort, and many individuals and organizations have participated along the way. The Progress Board is grateful for their information, insight, involvement and monetary support. The following organizations and individuals have generously provided financial and in-kind support to the Progress Board over the past several years: the North Carolina Department of Commerce; the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; the Department of Transportation; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation; the Golden Leaf Foundation; A.J. Fletcher Foundation, Capitol Broadcasting Company/WRAL; the Governor's Crime Commission; the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc.; the Greater Greensboro Community Foundation; the Julian Price Family Foundation; the Kenan Institute of Engineering, Technology, and Science; the French Broad Electric Cooperative;

the Southwestern Commission; East-West Partners; Wachovia Bank; the Governor's Office; Gordon Smith and Explor~~is~~s; AT&T; and North Carolina State University.

The North Carolina 2020 report would have not been completed without the dedicated and hard work of many individuals. Dr. Jean Davis, NCSU Department of Political Science and Public Administration, played an early, and special role. She conducted interviews with over 100 leaders and experts in North Carolina, in which she catalogued their opinions about "progress" and key goals for North Carolina. She served as a full-time staff member and--most critical, she designed the research methodology and process for setting the goals and measures in this report.

State government leaders who played a crucial role included: Marvin Dorman and David McCoy, State Budget Officers; Robert Powell, State Controller, and Dr. Sheron Morgan.

Board Task Group consultants Garnet Bass, Bob Melville, Joan Rose, Dr. Brenda Summers, and Rick Smith facilitated the Board Task Groups, researched the goals and measures, and organized the information in useful, informative and often provocative language. Their expertise was invaluable. Dr. Summers was also instrumental in planning the release of this report. Andy Frazier and Pam Gauvreau did much of the number-crunching and research involved in updating data over several years.

Debbie Lee Averitt edited this report and helped give it the spice and flavor that makes such a large piece of work digestible. She crafted the earlier "Passport to Progress" that set the tone of "who we are," together with our mission and commitments; Stephanie Gibbs edited large portions of the update to the Progress Board's 2000 report. Diane Henry collected most of the photographs for the calendar version of the report. Kathy Hart from Zubigraphics turned a plain report into a colorful exciting calendar.

Pablo Escobar and Meghan Willburger helped us create our website and gave it life. Bill Tillman, state demographer, contributed the section on demographics, and Dr. Sethu Raman, Dev Niyogi and Ryan Boyles of the State Climate Center at NCSU contributed the section on climate changes. Administrative staff Maria Tomasello, Anita Dichak, and Doris Gilbert kept the machinery of our organization humming, as they handled our financial matters, organized Board meetings, and navigated the complexities of the NCSU and State Government administrative systems.

Deputy Director Stephanie Bass kept the project on track and made major, essential contributions to the content, quality and dissemination of the final report. Her knowledge of state government has been helpful at every step of the way.

Communications Director Mark Dessauer was responsible for the design and content of the web site, as well as for constructing all graphic representations of the "scoring mission" of the Progress Board, - and most important, for the idea of publishing a summary of the report in a desk calendar format.

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