10 years, fewer homeless persons in North Carolina. That’s the goal of an initiative for which graduate student Amanda McGhee is doing research. Amanda is collecting information on 11 communities that have implemented a Ten Year Plan to end homelessness. Her team will identify best practices and monitor their effectiveness in hopes that other counties can replicate them with success. They will also monitor the evolution of their relationships with partner organizations. The topic caught Amanda’s interest when a former colleague became homeless, sleeping in downtown Raleigh and relying on area soup kitchens for all of his meals. While at an emergency shelter, the man applied and was admitted into a transitional housing program. He eventually transitioned from homelessness into maintaining a home. Amanda was inspired. A recent graduate of ECU’s Student Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy, she is working towards a Master of Public Administration while hoping her research will make a large-scale difference to benefit homeless persons.

The most rewarding part of the research is that the role I am playing in the endeavor to end homelessness in North Carolina.

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