Two ECU Projects Nominated for Excellence Award


The projects will be presented to attendees at the UEDA Annual Summit on Higher Education Institutions as Catalysts for Economic Development in Reno, Nevada, on November 7-9, 2010. At the Summit, the “best in each category” will be determined among the three finalists. Both projects originated from units within ECU’s Office of Engagement, Innovation and Economic Development (OEIED) and involve numerous students and faculty from around campus.

East Carolina University’s Innovation Design Lab: Partnering to Build a New Model of Regional Development centers upon the new Innovation Design Lab, a best-in-class facility designed to fuel trans-disciplinary innovation, research and education. With its satellite facility at NC State University, the Lab is a venue where researchers, inventors and businesses conceive and develop new products and processes through advanced design methods, prototyping and testing.

North Carolina Equine Industry Study was commissioned by the General Assembly in 2007 to document the size and scope of the industry, determine its economic impact, and recommend measures to increase the contributions to the state economy. The study was administered by the NC Rural Center’s Agricultural Advancement Consortium. OEIED’s Center for Survey Research was responsible for much of the data collection that led to the overall findings. Partnering in this effort were the Institute for the Economy and Future at Western Carolina University, the Department of Animal Sciences at North Carolina State University and the Sanford Holshouser Business Development Group.

Established in 1976, the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) is national organization of higher education, business and economic development professionals. UEDA members collaborate in order to achieve the common goals of enhancing economic development, creating community wealth and driving economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

ECU’s Office of Engagement, Innovation and Economic Development actively aligns, supports and celebrates ECU faculty, staff and student engagement with communities, industry, and government to address pressing regional needs. This engagement not only makes ECU a go-to partner in enhancing the region’s economic vitality and quality of life but also improves education, research
and innovation, and scholarship across the campus. For more information about the Innovators Design Academy, the Middle School Innovators Academy, or the Innovation Design Lab, please contact Director Wayne Godwin at godwinw@ecu.edu or Dee Dobson Harper at harperde@ecu.edu.