FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Central High School Teachers Visit ECU Pharmaceutical Skills Lab

GREENVILLE, N.C. (June 11, 2015) — Approximately 10 teachers from South Central High School in Winterville, accompanied by principal Julie Cary, visited East Carolina University Tuesday, June 9, touring the Pharmaceutical Skills Laboratory housed in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of Chemistry. The high school educators wanted to see what is happening in the laboratory at ECU that helps prepare students for a career in the pharmaceutical industry, so that they might take the information back to the students in their classrooms and demonstrate how the subject material taught in class is relevant in the community and for their future.

Dr. Allison Danell, principal investigator of the recent Golden LEAF Foundation grant to establish a Pharmaceutical and Development Manufacturing Center of Excellence at ECU, was pleased to have visitors take advantage of touring the laboratory.

“Recruitment of the next generation of talented scientists starts with our teachers,” said Danell.

“Teachers need to be aware of what is happening in industry, post-secondary education, business and the arts in their communities in order to relate course content to relevant examples for their students. This is one of our major goals in bringing teachers to the lab,” said Elizabeth Martin, instructional coach at South Central High School. “We hope our teachers will connect with the community in a deeper way. We also hope South Central can forge relationships with post-secondary education and industry that lead to substantive relationships between these key stakeholders.”

Dr. Keith Holmes, who administers the course and the lab, along with significant contributions from Dr. Jack Pender and other local pharmaceutical industry experts, coordinates the Pharmaceutical Skills Lab at ECU.

“People who complete this coursework will have been exposed to and tested on general and in-depth knowledge of numerous subjects they will need when they join regional industry,” said Holmes.

Course content includes learning the good manufacturing practices (GMPs) for drug products and active pharmaceutical ingredients; reading and understanding federal regulations for drugs and finished pharmaceuticals; validation of pharmaceutical development, production and automation systems; stability testing for drug products; and application of statistical methods to test data.

Under the leadership of Principal Julie Cary, the South Central teachers spent the 2014-15 academic year exploring
the topic of innovation in education. Through the assistance of Ted Morris, ECU's Vice-Chancellor of Engagement, Innovation, and Economic Development, and Wayne Godwin, Director of ECU's Innovation Lab, the educators have explored the human design process with their instructional leadership team, visited the Innovation Lab at ECU, learned more about the Annual Middle School Innovators Academy, and planned and created their own in-house Innovation Lab. In addition, they toured E.B. Aycock Middle School’s Career and Technical Education piece.

“We were excited when ECU and Pitt Community College received the grants to fund the establishment of a Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence,” said Martin. “So, we thought it would be enlightening for our science teachers to come see the lab and hear about your goals for the lab.”

For additional information, contact Holmes at 252-737-1566 or holmesk@ecu.edu.

###