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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNC Biology Chairpersons Gather at ECU to Discuss Educational Challenges

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Jan. 30, 2013) — Nearly a dozen biology department chairpersons from across the UNC System will gather together Friday, Feb. 1, on the East Carolina University campus in the first-ever meeting of its kind in North Carolina. Hosted by Dean Alan R. White, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Biology, participants will discuss educational and research approaches that best benefit their various groups.

"Given the challenges and changes we all face in resources, curricula, staffing, distance education, etc., it might be quite useful to get together and discuss which approaches work in which situations," said organizer and ECU Biology Chairman Dr. Jeff McKinnon. "Opportunities for collaboration and coordination may also present themselves."

During the system-wide biology chairs meeting, the group of educators will participate in discussions on various topics, including "Vision and Change Initiative," "Fundraising and Advancement," "Graduate Program Challenges and Departmental Research Profiles," "Research/Teaching Loads and Balancing Fixed Term/Tenure Track," and "Cooperation and Coordination Among Departments and Campuses."

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