East Carolina was founded at the dawn of the twentieth century to address a dire shortage of teachers in eastern North Carolina. Today, ECU's College of Education is the largest producer of teachers in the state. The college maintains a strong reputation for its professional development programs and for aggressively tackling teacher education issues.

The need for teachers is still a reality in North Carolina and across the nation. The College of Education continues to find modern solutions to this age-old challenge. East Carolina leads the state in distance education, for example. Helping fuel that growth are the College of Education's online and satellite programs, which have expanded by 30 percent each year for the past four years.

On campus, the college offers lateral-entry programs for professionals entering the teaching field. Project ACT is a yearlong program designed to recruit, prepare, and support mid-career professionals. Through the Troops to Teachers program, the college prepares retiring military to move into a teaching career.

Across the region, the college collaborates with community colleges and public schools. This initiative, known as Wachovia Partnership East, strives to alleviate the teacher shortage by training people to become educators where they live and work.

For nearly a century, East Carolina has kept teacher preparation and development as a central focus. As ECU moves toward its centennial, the College of Education advances a legacy of service by preparing the teachers of tomorrow.

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