



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# THANK YOU LEADERSHIP

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# LETTER FROM THE CEO

As the extraordinary community partnership called SAGA celebrates another productive year, we continue to prove the value of a shared vision and the power of sustained, collaborative effort to achieve unprecedented results. After years of effort in the trenches, the past three years have seen that commitment pay off in dramatic ways.


Newcomers to Lee County's manufacturing sector have announced more than 1300 good new jobs, and our existing manufacturers have created hundreds more, accompanied by new capital investment of well over a billion dollars. As we predicted, the ripple effects of this capital investment and new job creation have been felt across the local economy in the commercial and residential sectors, with sales tax revenues growing dramatically and record numbers of residential units proposed, approved or under construction.

And more growth is on the way. Our community's workforce and training resources, water and wastewater infrastructure, transportation infrastructure and other amenities have played a pivotal role in massive investments at two nearby megasites, with more than nine billion dollars in additional capital investment and more than 9,000 new high-quality jobs locating less than thirty minutes from downtown Sanford.

With growth comes change, and change can be unsettling, particularly if it is sudden and unexpected. But the growth we are experiencing is neither sudden nor unexpected. Years of foresight and deliberate, strategic effort by SAGA stakeholders, investors and staff have brought us to this moment.

This is the growth we envisioned, the growth we planned and prepared for, and as a result, we are well positioned to maximize the positive impact of these jobs of the future and massive capital investment on the lives of Lee County residents and businesses alike.

Thank you for your continued engagement and investment in SAGA. For thriving communities like ours, the work of visioning, planning, and preparing never ends. And, if Shakespeare's immortal words are true, and the past is indeed prologue, our ongoing efforts will produce even more amazing and transformative results in the years ahead.



Jimmy Randolph  
CEO  
Sanford Area Growth Alliance



# GOAL: MARKET LEE COUNTY

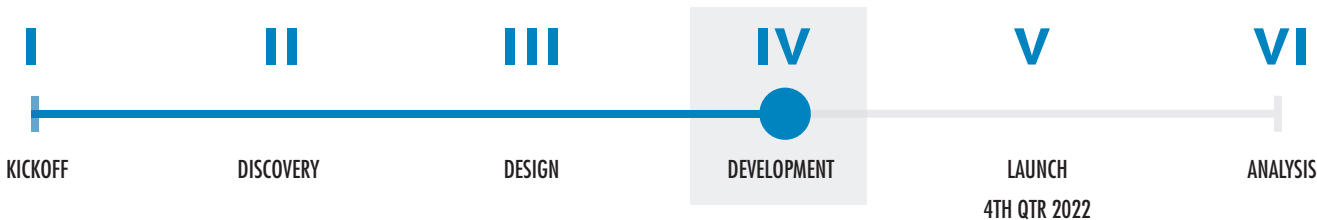
SAGA’s marketing efforts target internal customers and stakeholders through local media and printed materials to maintain communication on goals, strategies and accomplishments; while external marketing efforts, including contracted services through DCI, have been successful in extending the Sanford/Lee County brand through social media and SEO activities. Outreach marketing partnerships such as RTRP and co-op programs through EDPNC as well as direct mail have also proven to be a successful method of advertising/promotion, especially with site consultants.

## STRATEGIES:





- 🌀 Create common community vision for economic development
- 🌀 Maintain strong Investor, Member and Stakeholder Relations
- 🌀 Continue external marketing to promote area as a destination and business location

## MEASURES:

**DCI – New SAGA Website Process.** The site will be built with modern best practice functionality incorporating the latest digital industry forecast with a modern clean design, dynamic data visuals, featured news and events and ADA compliance. Our new website will also follow SEO best practices to attract the right visitors optimizing performance for both desktop and mobile users.



## Connect with us!

-  Sanford Area Chamber of Commerce  
Sanford Area Growth Alliance
-  @GrowSanfordNC
-  Sanford Area Growth Alliance
-  @GrowSanfordNC

## Marketing Events - Region/State

**Did you know...** We send a weekly email with event details, community happenings and SAGA news? You can sign up to receive our emails through our website!

## Featured In:

Public Engagement









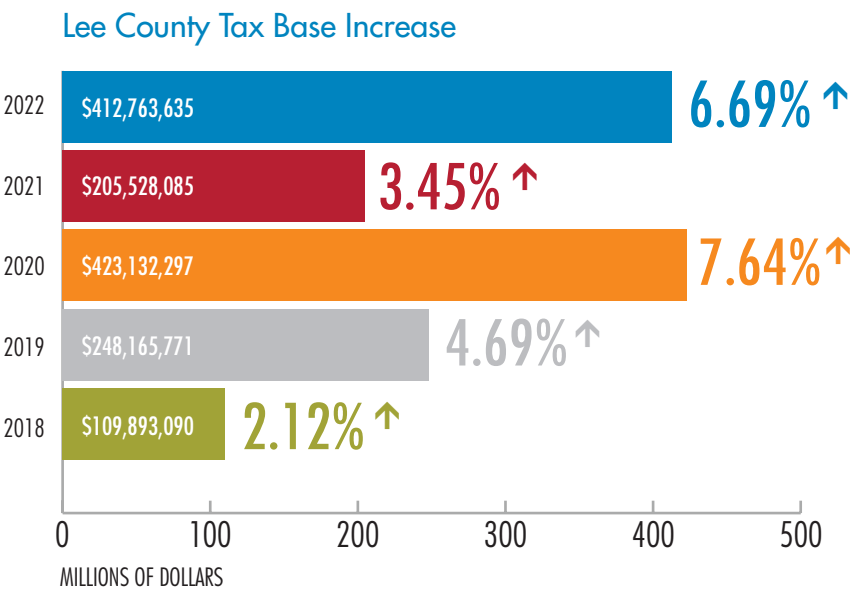
# GOAL: NEW BUSINESS RECRUITMENT

As the lead agency for new business recruitment, SAGA has utilized its increased resources to build stronger relationships with site consultants, state recruiters and industry decision-makers. These improved contacts have increased project activity by 47% in three years. Going forward, SAGA's more robust recruitment budget will insure a competitive effort commensurate with rival communities.

## STRATEGIES:

- Actively market Lee County for business recruitment
- Focus external marketing resources on the following Target Sectors: customers and suppliers of Megasite tenant and existing businesses; advanced manufacturing; life sciences; defense technologies; energy; and agriculture and related business sectors.
- Support retail recruitment
- Ensure competitiveness of recruitment efforts

## MEASURES:



**\$45,743**

Lee County Average  
Annual Wage

**\$412,763,635**

2021 – 2022  
Tax Base Increase

**\$12.7M**

New Payroll  
2021-2022 (announced)

## Service Offsite Solutions Expands in Sanford

In March 2021, Service Offsite Solutions (SOS), a building products company headquartered in Raleigh, NC, announced it will open a new facility. The company plans to occupy a newly constructed state-of-the art, 240,000 square foot manufacturing, warehouse and distribution facility, creating 235 jobs at an average annual salary of more than \$50,400. The total investment at the site will be \$11.8 million dollars.

Service Offsite Solutions offers factory-built, precision framing components providing comprehensive solutions for home builders. These products bring greater consistency, lower costs and higher quality while also significantly reducing cycle time.



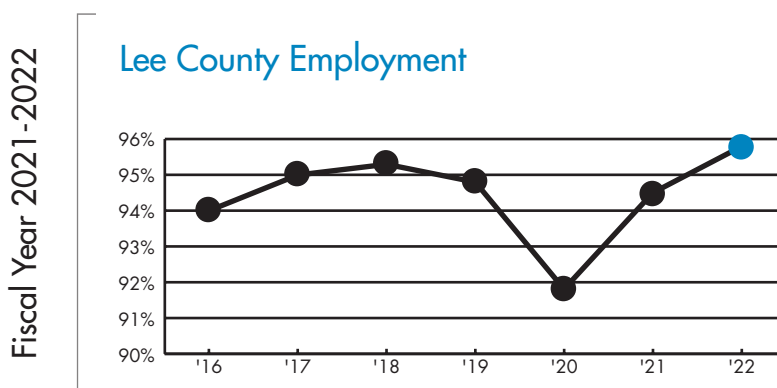
## GOAL: RETAIN AND EXPAND EXISTING INDUSTRY

Typically, existing industry expansions account for 75-80% of new capital investment and job creation in communities. Recent facility expansions and headcount increases by large employers like Pfizer, Caterpillar and Pentair as well as incremental headcount increases by smaller employers helped mitigate job losses among service sector employers impacted by the COVID pandemic, in addition to reductions in force at GKN, Moen and Marelli. SAGA will continue to advocate for a strong pro-business climate that supports existing business, provides timely and valuable information, fosters communication and connects local business with necessary resources. SAGA's ongoing commitment to a dedicated staff member in support of existing industry will ensure these strategies are effectively deployed.

### STRATEGIES:

- Actively support expansions and retention
- Advocate for business climate and policy changes that will support existing industry
- Foster industry synergy by building relationships and community engagement to continue effective communication channels

### MEASURES:



### Existing Industry Program Objectives

- Workforce Development and Talent Attraction
- Communications and Business Intelligence
- Supply Chain Opportunities

## Industry Expansion

Despite the challenges of a global pandemic and significant supply chain disruptions, Lee County's diverse manufacturing base continues to adapt and expand.

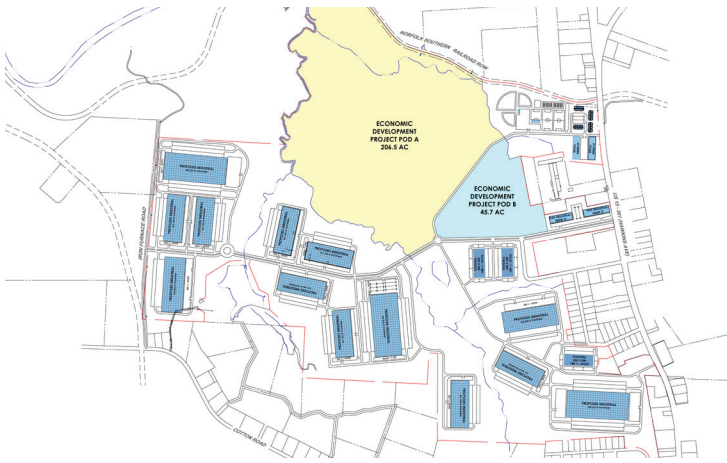
Pentair Aquatic Systems, a long-time leader in Sanford's manufacturing community, is pursuing plans to construct a 33K SF expansion of its Hawkins Avenue facility, and two of Lee County's newest industries are already expanding as well.

Bharat Forge Aluminum USA has occupied a 96K SF facility on Lee Avenue in Jonesboro and is actively planning for additional expansion.

Liberty Tire Recycling, which just recently launched operations at its new facility on Enterprise Park Drive in March, has already commenced construction on an ancillary facility at the former Dowda property on Womack Road in Central Carolina Enterprise Park.



## GOAL: PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT



### Helix Innovation Park at the Brickyard

In 2020, SAGA and other community stakeholders partnered with Duke Energy to identify a new potential industrial park in Lee County as part of the Duke Site Readiness Program. With direct access to U.S. Highway 1 and an active rail line on site, SAGA and its partners identified a 300+ acre privately owned tract located off 15-501 as a future industrial site. Within the past year, local developers Trustwell Property Group, the same development group behind Amgen's life science project Holly Springs, took control of nearly 900 acres, including the site evaluated by Duke in 2020. Now called Helix Innovation Park at the Brickyard, the owners envision a diverse industrial park with amenities inspired by the success of Central Carolina Enterprise Park.

### Regional Crossroads Park

Located between U.S. Highway 1 and the Raleigh Executive Jetport lies another emerging industrial site: Regional Crossroads Park. At over 600 acres, the property was purchased by new ownership in December 2021 and was just recently annexed by the City of Sanford and rezoned for light industrial use. North Carolina-based Trinity Capital is working with partners to complete the due diligence process in preparation for diverse industrial project opportunities, including suppliers supporting the transformative industrial projects located across the region on the U.S. 1 and 421 corridors. SAGA is working closely with the Trinity Capital team to support the development of the site and to identify project opportunities.

### Spec Building #3

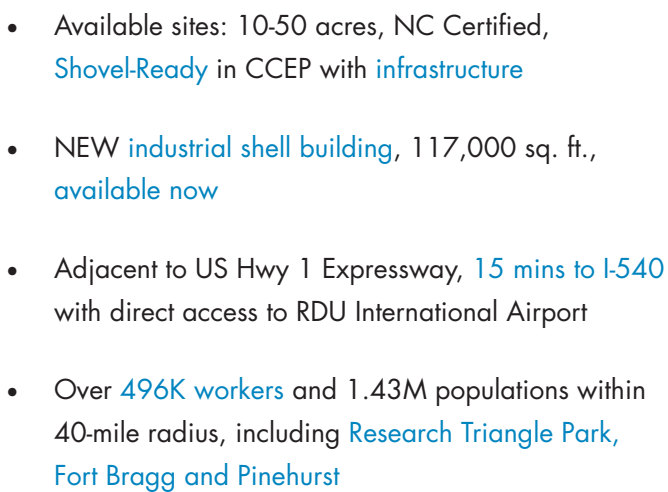
Built by Samet Corporation, Sanford's newest product is a +/- 117,185 SF spec building, expandable to +/- 234,318 SF, available this fall. Built on Lot 6, in the heart of Central Carolina Enterprise Park (CCEP), the building has direct access to the U.S. Highway 1 4-lane expressway (70 mph) connecting RDU International Airport and the Research Triangle Park (35 minutes) to the north and Pinehurst and Fort Bragg (40 minutes) to the south. Neighbors at CCEP include Astellas, Abzena, Pfizer, and Liberty Tire.

With utilities already in place and permitting complete, Spec Building #3 is perfect for:

- Manufacturing / R&D
- Warehousing / Distribution



# Central Carolina Enterprise Park

A 3D architectural rendering of a modern industrial building, the Central Carolina Enterprise Park. The building is a long, two-story structure with a light beige or off-white facade. It features a prominent corner entrance with large glass windows and doors. A red brick or terracotta section is visible on the upper part of the building, particularly around the corner entrance. The building is set on a green lawn with a few small trees and a paved parking area in the foreground. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

**Electric: Duke Energy**

- Distribution Line - 24 kV
- Transmission Line - 230 kV

- Size of line - 6"
- Pressure of line - 150 psig

- Nearest line size - 16" & 12"
- Available capacity - 1 MGD

- Size of nearest line: 12"
- Available capacity - 1.2 MGD

- Service available: Up to 10 Gbps via Fiber Optic





## Purpose built for Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences & Economic Development Projects




STRATEGICALLY LOCATED + ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-100+ acre pods available &lt; 40 minutes from RTP &amp; RDU</li> <li>• Minimal density restrictions and unlimited building height</li> <li>• Direct access to US-1, US-421 (I-685), and Rail</li> <li>• Unmatched sewer, water, gas, and electrical capacity</li> </ul>
SPEED TO MARKET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial Zoning in place by right</li> <li>• Expedited &amp; predictable development processes</li> <li>• Ground-breaking in as little as 2 months from submittal</li> <li>• <b>Shell building deliveries as soon as 2024</b></li> </ul>
STRONG ACCESS TO TALENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep existing talent pool</li> <li>• Regional universities, community colleges &amp; military programs graduating new local talent with customized skills</li> <li>• High Quality of life attracting global talent</li> </ul>
ALL DILIGENCE COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due diligence completed with no environmental issues, little stream or wetland limitations and suitable subgrade conditions for support of highly loaded structures</li> </ul>



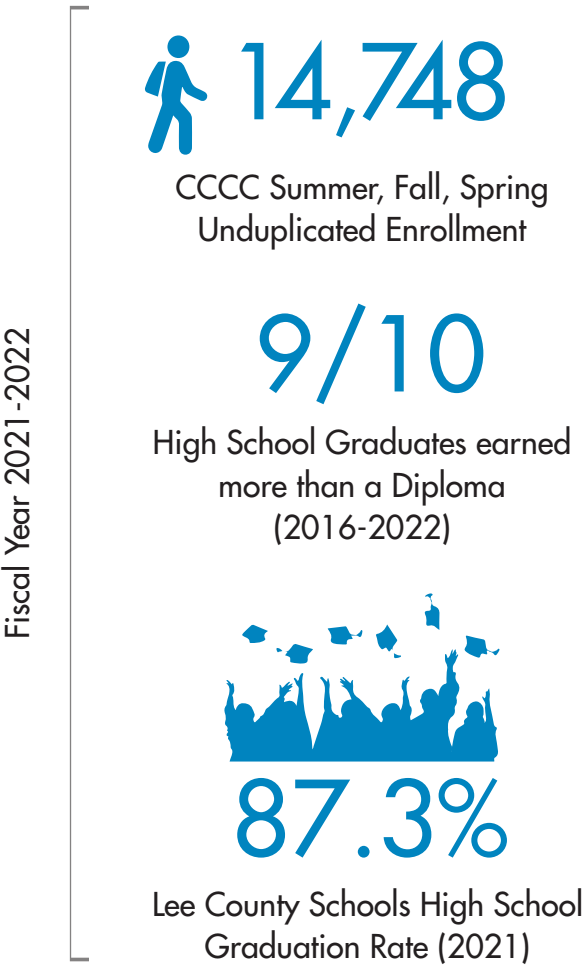
# GOAL: EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Activities in this goal area will continue to build on successful efforts such as Central Carolina Works, our model dual enrollment program created as a response to industry needs and privately funded by SAGA leaders in partnership with CCCC. SAGA will continue leading a community-wide collaboration to grow and train a 21st Century workforce, advocating for superior public schools, promoting integration of “learn and earn” experiences and facilitating communication between the business community and all education stakeholders.

## STRATEGIES:

-  Support Central Carolina Works and other educational programs to develop a ready workforce through initiatives such as K-14, apprenticeships and STEAM programming
-  Proactively anticipate emerging workforce needs and facilitate a connection between relevant or critical partners for business and education partnerships
-  Identify workforce development needs and initiatives

## MEASURES:



**CCCC Training Programs**

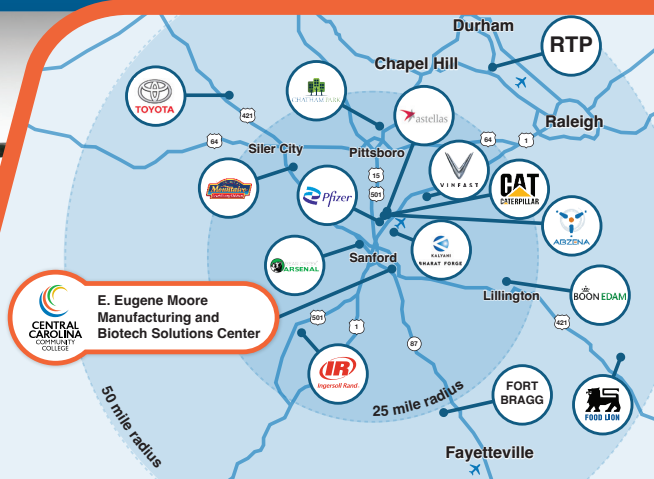
“CCCC is a first-class opportunity and leading workforce partner. The college is focused on providing the right career pathways for our current and future employers and ensuring our residents successfully access and navigate those pathways. We strive every day to provide the workforce solutions needed in support of our continued regional economic success. Working closely with our excellent K-12 and university partners, our education offerings are seamlessly aligned to maximize opportunities for talent pipeline development, and we are privileged to be part of Lee County’s unified local workforce ecosystem.”

Dr. Lisa Chapman  
President  
Central Carolina Community College



# Future site of **E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center**

Located in central North Carolina



- ✓ One-of-a-kind, **world-class solutions center** to meet the critical existing and future workforce needs in manufacturing and biotechnology
- ✓ **Incubator and collaborative Industry 4.0** opportunities for entrepreneurs to partner with community colleges and universities
- ✓ **State-of-the-art equipment and technology** to fuel economic development by supporting and attracting businesses to the region
- ✓ **Workforce recruiting and training center**, highlighting manufacturing and biotechnology career pathways featuring robotics, automation, and advanced processes
- ✓ **High-quality workforce development** through CCCC's extensive network of student supports and programs in short-term and curriculum programs

For more information, contact Crystal Glenn:  
(919) 718-7068 or [cglenn@cccc.edu](mailto:cglenn@cccc.edu)

[www.cccc.edu/moorecenter](http://www.cccc.edu/moorecenter)



Scan QR code to visit  
[www.cccc.edu/moorecenter](http://www.cccc.edu/moorecenter)

## LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS - AIMING HIGH

### Building Skills and Launching Careers in High School



#### **Lee Early College – Accelerating College Degrees for High School Students**

Lee County's advanced public high school, Lee Early College (LEC), has been an integral part of the local talent pipeline since 2006, offering students an opportunity to graduate high school with both a diploma and a two-year associate degree. In collaboration with Central Carolina Community College, LEC provides local high school students with access to more than 30 associate degree programs in fields such as business administration, computer engineering and machining, preparing them with a solid credential and the skills necessary to begin meaningful careers in local businesses immediately upon graduation. For students planning to attend a four-year university, a variety of university transfer courses are also available.

All students are encouraged to apply, and a competitive application process results in about 280 students in grades 9 through 12. LEC is known for its academic rigor, and students are held to a high performance standard, yielding graduates who are critical thinkers, effective communicators, lifelong learners, responsible citizens and technologically proficient individuals, ready and available to contribute to the success of local businesses and the community at large.



#### **NAF Career Academies – Engineering, Finance, Hospitality and Tourism, and Life Science**

Four National Academy Foundation (NAF) Career Academies are offered at both Lee County and Southern Lee High Schools. Functioning like schools within schools, the Academies provide each student with potentially life-changing career exploration opportunities at high-performing companies like Lenovo, Optum, Cisco, Dell and Mertek Solutions.

NAF Academy students are immersed in a rigorous industry-validated, career-themed curriculum that incorporates current industry best practices and standards, literacy strategies and STEM integration. Instruction is delivered with cross-curricular collaboration, establishing connection across all subject areas and consistently linking back to practical career applications.

The Academies of Engineering, Finance, and Hospitality & Tourism are well-established and have each been deemed Model or Distinguished Model Academies by the NAF. Lee County's newest NAF Career Academy, Life Science, is available to students beginning with the 2022-23 academic year, and connects high school students with careers across the spectrum of life sciences, including health care, counseling, mental health, dietitian/nutritionist, veterinarian, and health fitness science.



#### **Central Carolina Works – Harnessing the Power of Good Advice**

Central Carolina Works (CCWorks) leverages the power of public-private partnerships to accelerate student's paths to a rewarding career, activating their pursuit of a certificate, diploma or degree while still in high school. Through public and private sector support, CCWorks advisors are placed in Chatham, Harnett and Lee County public high schools to work with students, parents, faculty and administrators. They educate students about traditional post-secondary educational programs which can now be pursued by students while still in high school, yielding meaningful skills and credentials which will give students a career head start upon graduation from high school.




CCWorks counseling enables eligible students to access the state-funded Career & College Promise, a tuition-free program that offers dual enrollment courses and career technical learning. The program encourages minority, first-generation and low-income students to pursue greater academic and professional dreams.



# GOAL: CHAMPION SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH AND EXPANSION

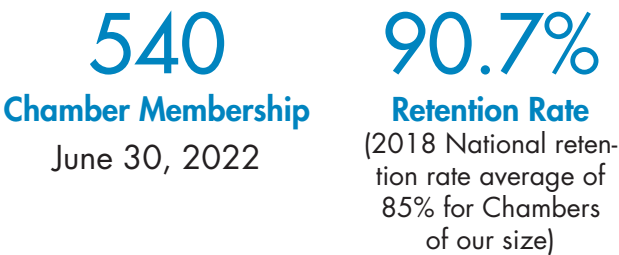
SAGA assists emerging and growing companies through the Chamber of Commerce by providing value-added benefits, such as networking and B2B efforts for its 500+ members. SAGA continues support of the CCCC Small Business Center; partnering with other critical organizations to assist our community's businesses in building connections to resources and advocating for business friendly public policy.

## STRATEGIES:

-  Maintain Chamber program to provide benefits to enhance and grow small business
-  Facilitate a support program for entrepreneurs
-  Advocate for funding resources and connect with new and existing businesses

## MEASURES:

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



**Enhancing, Supporting & Advocating:**  
Chamber Of Commerce Ambassador Program:  
23 Ambassadors volunteering 450 Hours at Chamber events such as AM Buzz, Business After Hours, Public Policy Luncheons and Chamber Clays.

**Lee County Hometown Revitalization Program**  
Duke Energy awarded Hometown Revitalization grants to 30 communities across the state, totaling \$750,000. The Sanford Area Growth Alliance Foundation, in partnership with Downtown Sanford, Inc, was chosen to establish a small business support microgrant program to deploy \$25,000 to our local small business community.

Grant recipients were: Added Accents, Café 121, Dossenbach's Finer Furniture, Hugger Mugger Brewing, La Dolce Vita, Mrs. Lacy's Magnolia House, Sanford Yoga & Community Center, The Flame Steakhouse, The Purple Poodle, The Smoke & Barrel and Theraplay PLLC.

Grant recipients in our downtown areas utilized funds to reimburse costs already incurred due to COVID-19, or to fund projects to increase capacity, increase sales, provide new ways of offering services, or other creative ways to improve their business.

## From the Director

As your new Chamber of Commerce Director, ten weeks in by the time you read this, I am slowly learning and adapting to this new seat. It has been an invigorating ride thus far and I look forward to continuing this momentum. I want to express my gratitude for the overwhelming support I have received from you – I am humbled. There is a lot for me to tackle and learn, and much more still to come but I promise you that I am here every day ready to take the challenge! With that being said, I am committed to directing the Chamber towards the road to growth and prosperity alongside the empowering staff of SAGA. We are here to continue the “overnight” success of Lee County and Sanford by being the champions of growth and expansion. I will continue to promote our existing and new businesses through networking and marketing opportunities. We will lean into the growth and continue to make a presence and be part of the conversation.

Susan Gomez  
Chamber of Commerce Director

### Chamber Children's Business Fair: Supporting Lee County's young entrepreneurs

On Saturday, October 23, 2021, the second annual Chamber Children's Business Fair hosted twenty-seven (27) young entrepreneurs in downtown Sanford. The event was held in conjunction with the Sanford Farmer's Market and was free and open to the public.

The young entrepreneurs created a product or service, developed a brand, built a marketing strategy, and then opened for customers at this one-day marketplace. The children were responsible for the setup, sales, and interaction with customers.

This event was sponsored by Acton Academy, the Acton School of Business, and the generous support of volunteers, who all believe that principled entrepreneurs are heroes and role models for the next generation.

The success of the Chamber's Children's Business Fair has allowed SAGA to continue to host this event annually. Our next Children's Business Fair is Saturday, October 15, 2022



### RISE: Real Investment in Sanford Entrepreneurs

An eight-class program designed to help entrepreneurs launch local businesses in Sanford. Participants learn concepts, practices, and tools to increase their chances for success in the competitive commercial environment. At the end of the program, each participant introduces their business plan to a committee of business professionals. One participant is selected and awarded a \$5,000 grant to help start their business concept.



This fiscal year we had two cohorts with a total of twenty-eight (28) students. Of these graduates, five have started their businesses to include our grant winners, The Debonair Chef, LLC and Full Circle Beauty Consulting. Our other RISE participant business owners are:

- Arkade Sound Studios
- Sanford Barber College
- Mine and Yours Boutique



Since the start of RISE in 2020, there have been 39 graduates with a total of twelve (12) businesses started. These new small businesses have created thirty-two (32) jobs in Sanford/Lee County area.

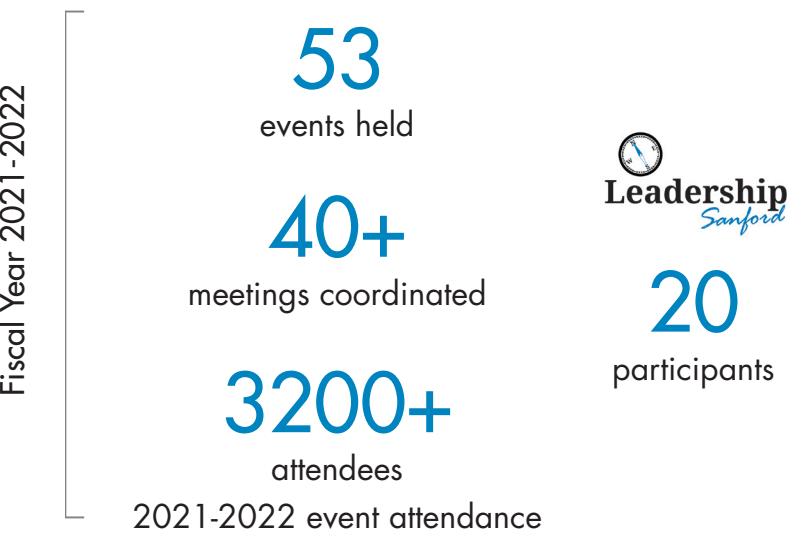
# GOAL: PROVIDE EVENTS RESULTING IN BUSINESS GROWTH

Offering high quality business gatherings has been a long time goal for the Chamber and, with the resources now available, SAGA conducts events which provide significant value and potential opportunity for business development. As a regular part of the SAGA activities, a variety of events are held to meet different business needs.

## STRATEGIES:

- Conduct monthly events to create a sense of community with business and industry
- Host special events to provide networking opportunities to build relationships and create new contacts
- Conduct Chamber Annual Membership Banquet and SAGA Annual Meeting to provide business and industry recognitions and organizational updates
- Organize and lead annual Leadership Sanford program

## MEASURES:



Chamber of Commerce  
celebrated 21 business  
owners' dream come to life.

Ace of Fades  
Beech & Boon  
Brainiacs Toy Shop  
Clear View Builders  
CMG Financial  
Constellate  
Dan Martin Jewelers  
DMJPS PLLC  
Dogwood State Bank  
FirstHealth Convenient Care  
Full Circle Beauty Consulting

Jones Insurance  
Lexington Farms by Smith Douglas Homes  
Millie's Mama Bakes  
MINA Charter School of Lee County  
North State Nutrition  
Seva Yoga  
Tasting Queens Market  
Triple Pointe Dance Academy  
Tri-River Consultants  
Tropical Smoothie Cafe  
Visitor Center Offices



# GOAL: ADVOCACY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES

SAGA’s recent activities in quality of life, through its predecessor entities, have existed as an organizational goal since the 2008 Lee County Second Century study. Directly related to economic development goals and requiring constant attention, these strategies are designed to attract higher quality development and the creation of a strong sense of place. SAGA’s leadership in educating the community about the benefits of the Parks and Recreation bonds proved successful with the voted approval by Lee County citizens.

## STRATEGIES:

- 🌀 Create a Task Force for residential development
- 🌀 Advocate for amenity development
- 🌀 Support downtown development

## MEASURES:

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

### Residential Growth Trends

Between 2019 and 2021, if all projects received by the City of Sanford were approved and built, it would result in **over 6,200 new single-family dwelling units**.

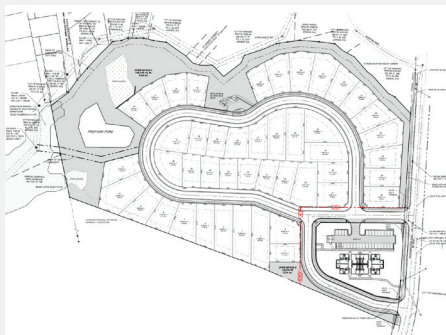
2019-2021 Single-family Zoning Reviews	Total Lots
Under Construction	1453
Approved Only	2793
Still in Review	1983

2019-2021 Multi-family Zoning Reviews	Total Lots
Under Construction	1054
Approved Only	1436
Still in Review	970



### Trails to Prosperity

In 2021, Lee County Government partnered with Black Diamond to redesign and reopen the San-Lee Gravity Park. Opened to the public this past December, this new addition to San-Lee Park, which draws mountain bikers from across North Carolina and the Southeast United States, is the latest addition to a recreational asset that includes over 12 miles of mountain biking trails, 4 miles of hiking trails, and other water and land-based activities.



**Brick Capital Community Development Corporation** is a non-profit organization that focuses on housing opportunities for all. As a HUD approved housing counseling agency, they help first time homebuyers navigate the homebuying process as well as helping preserve housing stability through foreclosure and eviction prevention. As a property manager, they provide supportive housing units to households that need supportive services in addition to a safe, affordable place to live. And as a housing developer, they build and sell houses to insure that the workforce of Lee County can afford a home of their own.

In 2022, Brick Capital served over 100 families with their housing counseling services. They are currently building nine new homes for families this year, doubling their capacity from last year. And with the support of the City and County, they have planned a new subdivision that will include 45 single family homes and a 16 unit apartment complex that will increase the availability of affordable housing options in Lee County. Work on this project is expected to start in the spring of 2023.

—Kerry Bashaw, Executive Director, Brick Capital Community Development Corp.



## GOAL: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Under the leadership of Dr. Bill Stone, County Extension Director for NC State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in Lee County, Extension launched the community's first annual Lee County "Ag Week" in April of 2022, which included a week of programming titled, "Farm Forward", recognizing the dynamic potential for agriculture in Lee County that can be achieved through innovation and adaptation. Dr. Stone characterizes the opportunity this way:

"I am continually grateful and appreciative of the platform that the Sanford Area Growth Alliance allows for us to engage with business and community leaders about the value and potential of agriculture in our region. As Lee County's demographics change, the population steadily grows and development continues to expand, it may be intuitive to assume that agriculture and development pressure are competing interests. However, we recognize that new residents and businesses coming to our area can actually provide an opportunity for our growers to maximize their profits, diversify their operations and help increase agricultural awareness and education for everyone in our community."

The thriving Sanford Farmers Market offers a prime example of this phenomenon. Under the leadership of a new Extension Local Foods Coordinator, the Sanford Farmers Market is thriving like never before. With consistent marketing and promotion, the market has now become a regional draw, bringing in an average of 650 customers to the market on a typical Saturday and increasing revenue across the board for area growers. The Sanford Agricultural Marketplace Project, future home of the Farmers Market, continues to move forward with positive and steady momentum as well. This collaboration between Extension and the City of Sanford, County of Lee, and Downtown Sanford Incorporated, will soon culminate with a state of the art facility that will serve as a community hub for building our local food system while also offering a space for education and community engagement focusing on agriculture, food entrepreneurship and the promotion of health and wellness.

## Continuing Our Agrarian Legacy



The Plant Pathways Company, a plant breeding company specializing in improving crops, with a focus on food and medicinal plants, announced the opening of a research and development facility in June 2022. This project, a partnership between Plant Pathways, North Carolina State Uni-

versity, and other private industry leaders, will conduct innovative research with the goal of replacing sugar with stevia, a natural sweetener and sugar substitute, in soft drinks.

The research and development facilities, located near Broadway, currently grows stevia in roughly 1,000 square feet of greenhouses, and 40-45 acres of field space. The Plant Pathways Company was formed as a result of eight years of breeding, genetics, agronomic, biochemistry, and consumer sciences research at NCSU and PepsiCo. Over the next five years, the company plans to invest \$850,000 and hire 17 full-time employees with an average annual wage of over \$60,000.



# THANK YOU

## SAGA INVESTORS

Adcock Real Estate Services	Helix Ventures LLC
Cargo Control USA, LLC	Lee County Farm Bureau
Carolina Commercial Contractors LLC	Lee Iron & Metal Co.
Carter Bank and Trust	Lee-Moore Capital Company
Caterpillar Inc.	M. Lee West, CPA, P.A.
Central Carolina Enterprise Park LLC	Mertek Solutions Inc.
Central Carolina Hospital	The Norman Financial Group
Central Electric Membership Corporation	Pilgrim's
Community Properties Inc.	Progressive Contracting Company, Inc.
DMJPS PLLC	REAP Holdings LLC
Dominion Energy	Samet Corporation
Dossenbach's Finer Furniture, Inc and Mattress Center	Sanford Contractors Inc.
Duke Energy	Sanford Honda
First Bank	Static Control Components Inc.
First Citizens Bank	Sanford Law Group
FirstHealth of the Carolinas	STI Polymer, Inc.
Forge Investment Group	Truist
Grace Christian School	Wilkinson Cadillac Chevrolet Buick GMC
Gross Farms	Wilson, Reives, Silverman & Doran, PLLC

## CHAIRMAN LEVEL MEMBERS



# MEET THE STAFF



**Jimmy Randolph**

CEO

jrandolph@growsanfordnc.com



**Bob Joyce**

Senior Director, Business Retention and Expansion

bjoyce@growsanfordnc.com



**Morgan Barbour**

Operations & Events Manager

mbarbour@growsanfordnc.com



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