



NORTH CAROLINA FORWARD

An Invitation to a Statewide Summit on Local Social Innovation

On **February 10, 2015**, in conjunction with UNC's statewide Social Entrepreneurship Conference, **Forward Communities** will convene representatives from across North Carolina for a full-day of learning and dialogue around creating a network of thriving local social innovation ecosystems.

Attendees are ten-member local innovation councils, comprised of policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, community advocates, educators, and students. Each council forms prior to the summit and commits to working with Forward Communities to contribute to an ongoing state-wide learning collaborative. Criteria for participating communities includes: a commitment to engaging and contributing to the conversation and a willingness to try new things and share the results.

Event Information

Date and Time: 8:30am-3:30pm, Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Location: North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 1601 E Market St., Greensboro

Deadline: Innovation Councils must register by January 30, 2015

Background Information

The scale and complexity of challenges facing North Carolina are outpacing the solutions to address them. Therefore, we are in need of catalytic environments that inspire a new breed of entrepreneur and strengthen and accelerate the impact of their ideas. Several communities are trying to build out these "social innovation ecosystems" – such as Durham, Raleigh, Charlotte, and Moore County.

As each community experiments with new programs and strives to support local talent, there is much to learn from one another. What are the best strategies for developing, recruiting, and retaining social innovators? What programs, physical spaces, events, and investment strategies spark and accelerate innovation? What metrics are most effective in terms of measurement and outcomes? How can we best connect and include policy-makers, media, universities, think tanks, and corporations in the creation and growth of these ecosystems? **How do our local citizens become social innovators?**

To help communities address these questions, Forward Communities, in partnership with the UNC System and other partners, proposes to create a learning collaborative that: a) facilitates best practice sharing, b) promotes collaboration between innovative cities and communities around the globe, and c) serves as a model for other communities building out their social innovation ecosystems. Building on our experiences launching Bull City Forward, Queen City Forward, Moore Forward, and HQ Raleigh, we aspire to work in collaboration with other communities across North Carolina to help accelerate the state's innovation economy.

The Summit is the first step of this shared learning collaborative and we hope you can join us. For questions, please contact us below.

Forward Communities provides the resources, relationships, and knowledge necessary for our network of local social innovation ecosystems to increase the creation, scale, and impact of social ventures. Forward Communities, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. EIN: 80-0721191

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