**UNCW'S COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RECEIVES**

**NC GLAXOSMITHKLINE FOUNDATION GRANT FOR**

**HEALTH INITIATIVES IN SOUTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

*Funds to Support the* [*Southeastern North Carolina Regional Health Collaborative*](http://uncw.edu/sencrhc/) *for Improving Health Outcomes in Surrounding Counties*

Wilmington, N.C. May 6, 2014 - The [University of North Carolina Wilmington'](http://www.uncw.edu)s College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) has received a $150,000 grant from the [North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation](http://www.ncgskfoundation.org/index.html), the University announced today. Over the next two years, these funds will be allocated to the Southeastern North Carolina Regional Health Collaborative (SENCRHC), an initiative with the intention of improving the health of individuals, families and communities. Strategies will aim to enact change in New Hanover, Onslow, Columbus, Pender and Brunswick Counties through programs and interventions.

According to the 2014 [County Health Rankings for North Carolina](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/state/downloads/CHR2014_NC_v2.pdf), out of 100 counties New Hanover ranks 10th in health outcomes, Pender 25th, Onslow 24th, Brunswick 34th and Columbus 100th. These outcomes are based on an equal weighting of length and quality of life.

"The Southeastern North Carolina Regional Health Collaborative is part of the university's commitment to our community and the overall health of our region," said Dean Hardy. "It's clear that there are some significant challenges in life quality and wellbeing, but we are committed to striving toward a culture of health. This generous grant from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation will support the collaborative planning to make that possible.”

In 2013, the SENCRHC was created in part as the university’s response to the needs made evident by the County Health Rankings as well as the desire to collaborate by our regional partners. This undertaking brings together regional health directors [Angela Lee](http://www.onslowcountync.gov/health/), Onslow County; [Kimberly Smith](http://www.columbusco.org/DotNetNuke_2/Default.aspx?alias=www.columbusco.org/dotnetnuke_2/health), Columbus County; [Carolyn Moser](http://www.pendercountync.gov/government/departments/healthdept/Home.aspx), Pender County; [David Stanley](http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/Departments/HealthRelated/Health.aspx), Brunswick County; [David Rice](http://www.nhcgov.com/Health/Pages/default.aspx), New Hanover County; and Joseph Pino, President and CEO, [South East Area Health Education Center](http://www.seahec.net/).

 "The work that UNCW and CHHS are doing can change how we view health in Southeastern North Carolina," said NC GlaxoSmithKline Executive Director Marilyn Foote-Hudson. “We look forward to seeing this program develop into something that can potentially become a nationwide example of universities working to benefit their communities."

The SENCRHC is expecting to see their impact within the community within the next three years. Their next meeting will be in June to begin setting priorities for collective action.

**About the University of North Carolina Wilmington**

The University of North Carolina Wilmington, the state’s coastal university, is dedicated to learning through the integration of teaching and mentoring with research and service. A public institution with nearly 14,000 students, the university is widely acknowledged for its superb faculty and staff and a powerful academic experience that stimulates creative inquiry, critical thinking, thoughtful expression and responsible citizenship. With an array of high-quality programs at the baccalaureate and master’s levels, and doctoral programs in marine biology and educational leadership, UNCW is continuously recognized at a national level for academic excellence and affordability. UNCW is dedicated to offering a community rich in diversity and inclusion, global perspectives, and enriching the quality of life through scholarly community engagement in such areas as health, education, the economy, the environment, marine and coastal issues, and the arts.

**About the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation**

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation is an independent self-funding 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. Since its creation in 1986, the foundation has granted over $61 million to support North Carolina projects and programs that emphasize the understanding and application of health, science and education at all academic and professional levels. Visit us at [NCGSKFoundation.org](http://www.ncgskfoundation.org/index.html) and follow us @ncgskfound.