

Dear Rowan County Commission:

Our county is at a turning point. Decisions we make today will affect whether Rowan County grows or shrinks; whether technological jobs and private investment are attracted here or somewhere else, and whether we further divide the haves and have-nots, or we build an economy where all our citizens can prosper.

The Rowan Education Collaborative was formed to explore, plan and implement a strategy that will build opportunities through education—concentrating on bold moves to improve local access to career-focused education, change the perceptions of educational attainment and coordinate our efforts as part of a comprehensive economic and community development effort.

We believe that educational attainment—especially attainment that connects residents with pathways to careers that are critical to Rowan County’s future—is the key to comprehensive economic growth. We believe that early exposure, exploration and experiences shape students futures. We believe that education beyond high school for the majority of our residents is the key factor for our mutual economic success. We believe that public investment in increasing the educational attainment of Rowan County is the factor that will determine our competitiveness in both the near and far term.

Just as the Education Collaborative has come together to combine our resources to drive these objectives forward, we know that leveraging the investment of local resources will accelerate and intensify the outcomes we seek.

The Rowan County Education Collaborative supports a bond initiative to build a complex of facilities on Rowan-Cabarrus Community College’s North Campus. This technology education complex would allow the College to expand and enhance career and technical education for programs such as welding, machining and automotive, as well as to serve the needs of our firefighters with a decontamination unit and to improve the experience of dual enrolled high school students on campus. We encourage the commission’s unanimous support of the bond initiative as a transformational step towards becoming the educational community we need as Rowan County moves forward.

Sincerely,

Members of the Rowan Education Collaborative

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Chair, Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education