



# CITY OF WILSON

*North Carolina*

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Here is a portion of the Wilson reaction to the InnovateNC announcement:

**Mayor Bruce Rose:** “We have always been forward-thinking in Wilson and it’s great to be in this new partnership with others who are trying to prepare their communities for tomorrow. I can’t wait to take part in the discussion over the next two year that will possibly help us for decades.”

**Thomas Lucas, Wilson County Commissioner Chair:** “Receiving InnovateNC confirms what we all know. The city and county of Wilson along with our businesses and educational partners are working together for a brighter future for all of our citizenry. This is a great recognition of our team spirit and another tool to help us realize our vision.”

**Grant Goings, Wilson City Manager:** "As a community dedicated to progress and innovation, It is truly inspiring to have such a distinguished institution recognize the potential we already see in ourselves.”

**Rodger Lentz, Chief Planning and Development Officer:** “I am very excited that Wilson has been chosen for the InnovateNC initiative. Given the community's focus on downtown and center city revitalization, investment in our community owned Greenlight gigabit network, and focus on improved educational opportunities, we have set the groundwork for an inclusive innovation based economy.”

**Paula Benson, Executive Director Wilson 20/20:** “The Wilson community has strong partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit entities, and our relationships will allow us to realize the true potential of the resources provided by InnovateNC. We are excited to be selected, and we look forward to working with Innovate NC's team of experts to focus on innovative ways for strengthening our economy, improving our workforce, and creating a better place to work and live.”

**Jennifer Lantz, Executive Director Wilson Economic Development Council:** “Wilson has a long history of innovation. To be included in InnovateNC will allow our community to capitalize on that history and create an exciting future.”

**Kimberly Van Dyk, Director of Planning and Community Revitalization:** “We are honored to be chosen as an InnovateNC community. Known as the 'Crossroads of Charm & Innovation', Historic Downtown Wilson is poised to be the hub of energy for this effort in building and attracting the next generation of creative economic development.”