



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 30, 2016

### **Cape Fear Future to Present \$23,500 to UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Wilmington, N.C. — Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Interim President & CEO Dick Blouse and First Vice Chairman Charlie Mattox (BB&T) will present \$23,500 to the UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am at the CIE (803 South College Road, Wilmington). The donation is being made as part of the Chamber's Cape Fear Future *Passion Works* campaign and is earmarked for entrepreneurship development, one of the three CFF focus areas.

The mission of CFF—the Wilmington Chamber's flagship program—is to increase the number of higher wage jobs (knowledge sector economy) to foster economic growth and ensure the prosperity of the region. The initiative is helping build a community where knowledge sector workers would choose to live, work and play. The CFF strategic plan focuses on fostering an entrepreneurial community by supporting, promoting, and educating young and emerging entrepreneurs; assisting the improvement of our area school systems and expanding emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and improving the overall image of the greater Wilmington region by delivering community improvement projects that enhance quality of life.

"The Wilmington Chamber is pleased to support this important resource for entrepreneurs in our community," said First Vice Chairman Charlie Mattox. "Public-private partnerships are critical to support the ideas and innovations that create jobs and foster a healthy long-term local economy. This collaborative effort will continue to move our community forward and help us become a leader in small business formation and job creation for many years to come."

Expanding the involvement of area businesses in community building efforts has been a key ingredient of Cape Fear Future, and has been well received by businesses such as BB&T, which has contributed \$40,000 to Cape Fear Future over the last four years, earmarked for entrepreneurial development. After the check presentation on Thursday, Cape Fear Future will have donated \$104,000 to the UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Media are encouraged to attend the check presentation on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 pm at the CIE. For more information please contact Scott Czechlewski, Director of Communications, at [czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org](mailto:czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org) or 910.762.2611 ext. 216.

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