



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 435-9421
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WIRELESS RESEARCH CENTER OF NC RECEIVES FUNDING FROM GOLDEN LEAF

WAKE FOREST, NC – October 10, 2011 – Wake Forest Mayor Vivian Jones announced today that the Wireless Research Center of North Carolina (WRC NC) has been approved for a \$962,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation. The grant is in addition to the nearly \$1.2 million committed by the Town of Wake Forest over the next three years and will be used to fund test equipment that will permit a major expansion of the services that can be provided.

Mayor Jones made the announcement during a morning press conference at Town Hall that included U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, State Sen. Neal Hunt, State Rep. Marilyn Avila, and Golden LEAF President Dan Gerlach.

Gerlach said the award acknowledges the WRC as an incubator and hub for innovation for the Town of Wake Forest, the State of North Carolina, and beyond.

“The Wireless Research Center of North Carolina is taking a highly specialized capability and using it to spur economic growth across North Carolina for both large and small businesses,” he said.

Located in Wake Forest, the WRC is a non-profit organization enabling research, development and testing of current and next generation wireless antenna technologies. According to its founder and director, Gerry Hayes, the center will serve as a regional, national, and international destination for antenna development and related research and testing that requires specialized facilities coupled with applied and theoretical expertise.

“It’s no secret that the wireless industry is pervading all aspects of society,” said Hayes. “But as dramatic as the proliferation of devices has become, it must be matched by the ability for testing to ensure the phones, tablets and other devices work as expected.”

The former lead Radio Frequency Engineer and Manager from Ericsson/Sony Ericsson, Hayes has been a resident of Wake Forest for nearly 20 years. While at Sony Ericsson he recognized the need for specialized testing, development, and consulting services.

“Finding the skills, chambers, and space meant a trek to other parts of the country,” explained Hayes. “When using other facilities we found they either required a share in any intellectual property created, or were commercial ventures that were costly especially for small projects. That started me thinking that a center such as this could help small companies test, create, and launch successful wireless products and in turn grow up in this area because of the likelihood that they will eventually need other services.”

During the press conference, Mayor Jones praised the Town’s board of commissioners for recognizing the potential the WRC offers Wake Forest and the surrounding area.

“Our board recognized that the opportunity to bring industry and growth to our community required a fresh approach,” she said. “We have supported this project and the possibilities it can create from the very beginning, and I am delighted to see our support endorsed by the Golden LEAF Foundation.”

For more information about the Wireless Research Center of North Carolina or to schedule an interview, contact Gerry Hayes at (919) 435-1051 ext. 101 or gerard.hayes@wirelesscenter-nc.org.

About the Wireless Research Center of North Carolina

The WRC NC was established as a non-profit organization to provide research, development and testing services in the wireless radio frequency and antenna market. The team has extensive experience in the telecommunications arena with both military and commercial products developed in the US and across Europe and Asia. The WRC NC is financed by the Town of Wake Forest and a grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation. For more information, visit www.wirelesscenter-nc.org.

About the Golden LEAF Foundation

The Golden LEAF Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1999 to help transform North Carolina's economy. The foundation receives one-half of North Carolina's funds from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with cigarette manufacturers and places special emphasis on assisting tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and/or rural communities across the state. The Golden LEAF Foundation works in partnership with governmental entities, educational institutions, economic development organizations and nonprofits to achieve its mission. The foundation has awarded over 1,000 grants totaling more than \$400 million since its inception. For more information, visit www.goldenleaf.org or call (888) 684-8404.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.