



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **North Carolina Research Parks Network Selects Bill Dean as Chairman January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Bill Dean, the Director of the Piedmont Triad Research Park has been named Chairman of the newly formed North Carolina Research Parks Network organization. As of January 2009, Bill will chair the Network, a coalition of seven leading science parks located across the state of North Carolina.

North Carolina has a legacy of research park success, concentrating knowledge assets and connecting them to the greater regional and state economy to create economic advantages. The newly formed NC Research Parks Network leverages the unique characteristics of the individual parks that have been established in the state and highlights the diverse strengths of the state's knowledge resources.

According to Bill Dean, NC Research Parks Network Chairman, "The network will enable its members to brand and locate technology resources across the state", Dean said. "Together we will address trends and challenges to keep North Carolina competitive in the future."

Together, the research parks across the state possess many of the elements that will be crucial for success in the future of innovation regions and technology-based economic development.

"North Carolina is home to a plethora of innovation regions and assets, building on the foundation The Research Triangle Park established in the 1950's," said Rick Weddle, President & CEO of the Research Triangle Foundation on North Carolina, owners and developers of RTP. "As RTP enters its 50<sup>th</sup> year of operation as one of the leading research parks in the world, the newly formed NC Research Park Network is proof-positive of our state's innovative capacity and ability to leverage its various knowledge assets. The Network creates collaborative partnerships across the state that will future-proof the economic environment of the state of North Carolina."

Each individual research park in the network benefits from strong collaborative relationships with proximate colleges and universities and sets forth a unique model for partnering those assets with the private sector. They include:

- Carolina North is a planned campus located at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill to foster and house researchers, students and faculty of the university;
- Centennial Campus was established at North Carolina State University to provide a complementary space for university faculty, students, and research centers with industry and government counterparts;
- The Charlotte Research Institute was an initiative spurred by the University of North Carolina – Charlotte to accelerate the university's development as a top-tier research university;
- Gateway University Research Park is a joint research campus in collaboration with North Carolina A&T State University and the University of North Carolina – Greensboro;
- The North Carolina Research Campus is currently being planned and constructed in Kannapolis, North Carolina, with the support of seven North Carolina universities;
- The Piedmont Triad Research Park was created in Winston-Salem with the objective of redeveloping the downtown area for research purposes complementary to the strengths of Wake Forest University in the health sciences;
- The Research Triangle Park is one of the oldest and most successful science parks in the world, anchored by Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

The members of the Network work together to frame a number of initiatives and activities around which the group can have an impact and further create economic opportunities across the state. The organization will present its first collaborative white paper at the XXVI International Association of Science Parks World Conference on Science and Technology Parks, 2009 in Raleigh, NC in June 2009.

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