THE CONNECT NC BOND is a $2 billion state-wide bond package that will be on the ballot in North Carolina on March 15, 2016. The bond includes $980 million for UNC campus projects, including $30 million in significant funding toward the design and construction of a new School of Business for North Carolina Central University, replacing a building that was constructed in 1956. The C. T. Willis Building was refurbished in early the 2000s, but still lacks critical facilities necessary to effectively support today’s collaborative instruction and research methods.

This investment would help the university engage additional talent and partnerships within high-growth industries critical to North Carolina’s workforce.

If voters approve the funding, the new School would be built over a three-to four-year period and would ultimately allow NCCU to increase enrollment in School of Business programs accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Currently, programs within the School are housed in three different locations.

Development of a state-of-the art Financial Trading Room and Entrepreneurship Center would provide new opportunities for students to engage in a high-touch, interactive and innovative learning environment. The Connect NC Bond funding would also indirectly help NCCU attract top-quality faculty and academic professionals and expand collaborative teaching and learning initiatives aimed at raising the university’s student retention and graduation rates. Technology-enhanced open areas and other spaces would create a greater level of student collaboration and interaction.

The project would create a world-class learning center, allowing the university to better prepare leaders for success in the global business environment. An updated School of Business facility is expected to not only increase enrollment numbers within the School but also positively influence the university’s overall enrollment through expanded interdisciplinary programs of study, including the existing Entrepreneurship concentration. It is vital for the School of Business to expand visibility, enhance programs and provide increased opportunities for internships, career and graduate school placements. Interdisciplinary programs in entrepreneurship will also benefit students from the School’s K-12 partnership programs. The project as funded by the Connect NC Bond would address all of these areas.
North Carolina Central University provides an attractive geographic location in Durham, a thriving national hub for technology companies and entrepreneurship opportunities. In close proximity to Research Triangle Park, the School of Business affords a number of opportunities for students and faculty to engage in experiential learning through collaborations with corporate and community partners.

The new School of Business is estimated to provide a $12.3 million annual boost to the state of North Carolina by expanding workforce productivity and improving skills training for workers. This benefit is in addition to the $563.7 million regional income the university currently delivers to five counties in the central region of the state. It is also estimated that the new School would generate approximately $2.5 million in business start-up impact and create nearly 475 new jobs. Programs offered through the School of Business address some of the state's largest and fastest growing industries. For example, the Hospitality and Tourism program trains professionals for the growing tourism industry that provides more than $19.4 billion in annual revenue to North Carolina.

For more information visit nccu.edu/connectnc

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