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Rivers East Academy for Advanced Manufacturing Launches

NC East Alliance and Rivers East Workforce Development Board have partnered to develop the Rivers East Academy for Advanced Manufacturing. The Rivers East Academy is a unique multicounty solution that will comprise of a 3-year high school teacher externship professional learning program. It will assemble a regional network of high schools, community colleges, East Carolina University, and regional industry in a 6-county area. The six counties involved are Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, and Pitt.

The program will train high school teachers, community college faculty and community college student “ambassadors” to work together. As teams, they will help students bridge the gap from high school to community college to career. The year-round program is a series of in-person (one-day events at respective community colleges) and virtual events (synchronous and asynchronous) that include virtual live stream events, technology partner demos, industry tours, job shadowing and career fairs.

The Rivers East Academy for Advanced Manufacturing is funded through Golden LEAF and is designed to advance the Regional Advanced Manufacturing Pipeline for Eastern North Carolina (rampeast.com). The Rivers East Academy develops and implements new strategies that inspire and motivate more students by empowering their strongest influencers—parents and teachers.

“We are excited to launch this Academy to provide teachers hands on experience they can apply in the classroom to directly relate their lessons to careers available in our region. Our goal is to help students see their future career and the pathway to get there, all while staying right here in northeastern NC”, says Jennie Bowen, Director of the Rivers East Workforce Development Board.

About Rivers East: The Rivers East Workforce Development Board (WDB) is composed of leaders from the private and public sectors. They provide regional leadership, guidance, and support to meet the changing needs of the community through strategic innovation and collaboration. This organization is also responsible for the operations of the NCWorks Career Centers and providing Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) services in the 5 county Region.

About NC East Alliance: NC East Alliance is a regional economic development organization representing 29 counties in eastern North Carolina. NC East leads advocacy efforts in the region by convening stakeholders to identify important regional challenges and ultimately pursue solutions to these challenges. In addition to regional advocacy, the alliance supports existing



industries, promotes STEM education through STEM East, and conducts targeted company recruitment.