



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New College Institute Announces Partnership with Wendell Scott Foundation**

Today, Senator Bill Stanley (R-20), Chairman of New College Institute Board of Directors, announced a preliminary agreement had been reached between New College and the Wendell Scott Foundation to bring the Foundation's "Steer Into Stem" program to Martinsville/Henry County students at New College's facility located on the historic Baldwin Block.

The Wendell Scott Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to provide intensive youth services, mentoring, job-skill training, cultural enrichment services, educational opportunities, and other supportive services, that rely on applications of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math ("STEM") to at-risk, under-served youths between the ages of 8 – 18 years of age.

Steer into Stem's principal objectives target educational services with emphasis in STEM careers, workforce readiness training, and mentoring services to strengthen and develop character to increase participant's self-esteem and confidence.

New College Board Chairman Senator Bill Stanley made the following statement: "It is without question that the Wendell Scott Foundation is the premier charitable organization that reaches back into our community to help our children in the underprivileged and underserved communities in our region, and gives them a fighting chance at achieving the American Dream by educating them in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines. The New College Institute is both honored and privileged to have the Wendell Scott Foundation be a part of the greater mission of the New College Institute. It is a perfect fit, and further demonstrates our Board of Directors' commitment as servants of our local community. Warrick Scott, CEO/Founder of the Wendell Scott Foundation, is a man that I respect and admire greatly. We cannot wait to get started. This agreement is further evidence that this Board of Directors will be true to its word, and strong in the commitments that it makes to our community."

CEO Warrick Scott of the Wendell Scott Foundation stated, “We are honored to have the opportunity to add value to the lives of youth in our region. Senator Stanley’s vision and dedication to students in the Commonwealth is the work of a champion. We are more committed than ever to help replace a long standing narrative of “can’t” with a “can do” attitude using STEM education as a vehicle to help drive students to global opportunities that will ultimately transform our communities.”

Additionally, New College Institute has announced an expansion of its community outreach program, which brings the New College mission of providing a world class education to citizens of Southside at a low cost to our local schools and community.

The outreach mission of NCI, of critical importance to fulfilling the academic mission, is a pledge to actively reach out into the community and public schools at all levels to convey the message that postsecondary education is attainable.

Since 2006, two full-time staff members have been charged with developing programs and services that engage diverse audiences and support college access, retention, and success. For the past two years, their work has been augmented by three AmeriCorps service members who focus specifically on STEM-related programming.

Key outreach initiatives include:

- NCI is home to a Student Success Center, housed in King Hall, that provides free college advising, primarily for current and prospective NCI students but also any resident of the Commonwealth. Individuals of all ages and backgrounds interested in pursuing postsecondary education can make appointments to receive academic, career, and financial aid advising.
- NCI aggressively seeks opportunities to participate in community events. Outreach staff members are frequently invited to present college awareness workshops at churches, community organizations, and schools. NCI partners with organizations to reach all segments of the community, including but not limited to the Boys and Girls Club, 4-H, the YMCA, MHC After 3, Upward Bound, and the Virginia College Advising Corps.
- NCI hosts STEM-focused summer camps for elementary and middle school students. Diverse participants are actively recruited through schools and community organizations.
- As part of its AmeriCorps initiative, NCI is now home to the nationally-acclaimed Martinsville-Henry County chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. The chapter’s sponsor is an NCI/AmeriCorps service member.
- For the past nine years, NCI has sponsored Reading for Life, an initiative that provides each kindergarten student in the area with a free book. “This program models lifelong reading and learning, and we have a cadre of retired professionals who visit each area kindergarten classroom with NCI faculty and staff to read a book,” stated Steve Keyser, NCI’s Coordinator of Educational & Community Engagement.

- NCI sponsors community-wide STEM awareness programs that include students from all area schools and involves area employers. These include Martinsville-Henry County Engineering Week and a regional STEM Day.

“NCI’s outreach is flexible and responsive to community priorities. We are proud of what we have accomplished thus far and look forward to partnering with the community to reach even more people in the years to come,” added Sammy Redd, NCI’s Coordinator of Student Services.

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