From the Chancellor

The past year’s achievements are our stepping stones to the future, moving NC State forward as the university grows in quality, impact and reputation.

If you made a list of NC State’s best years across its 135-year history, you’d be hard pressed to find one that outpaced 2022: a year of record-breaking achievements for NC State in academics, research, growth and reputation.

And thanks to the foundation we’ve built over the past decade, our future looks even brighter.

The high points are truly extraordinary:

- We marked the conclusion of the most ambitious capital campaign in university history, raising more than $2.1 billion for scholarships, faculty resources and infrastructure.
- We welcomed the largest, most diverse and most academically accomplished class of first-year students in our history this fall.
- We achieved our highest ranking ever on the annual Best Colleges list published by U.S. News & World Report, joining the ranks of the top 30 public universities in the nation.
- We surpassed $500 million in annual research expenditures and ranked No. 6 in research spending among public universities without a medical school.
- We were recognized as the best large employer in North Carolina by Forbes magazine.

As much as we celebrate these milestones, NC State’s vision is focused on the future. Our road map for the next decade, Wolfpack 2030: Powering the Extraordinary, sets ambitious goals for us all — faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters. Guided by this collective vision, we continue pursuing our mission to empower students for a lifetime of success, expand our engagement efforts across the state and champion a culture of equity, diversity and well-being.

I can’t wait to see the milestones we pass in the months and years ahead.

In this annual report, you’ll find reasons to celebrate the past — and to look to the future with pride and optimism.

Go Wolfpack!

Randy Woodson, Chancellor
In August 2022, NC State welcomed home the largest, most diverse and most academically accomplished incoming class in our history, following a second straight year of record-high numbers of first-year and transfer applications. Our incoming class came from 98 North Carolina counties, 43 states and 41 countries. Just as impressive is how diverse this class is: 30% of first-year students are people of color, and 19% of incoming students are the first in their families to pursue a college degree.

These scholars intend to become engineers, scientists and business leaders, entering fields in which NC State ranks among the best in the nation. As the flagship STEM campus of the UNC System, it falls to us to meet our state’s need for skilled graduates in the tech industries of tomorrow. Backed by a $50 million state legislative initiative — Engineering North Carolina’s Future — we’re enrolling 4,000 more students in engineering and computer science over the next five years, creating a massive talent pipeline that will help to drive North Carolina’s economy for decades to come.

As we emerge from the tumultuous past few years, NC State remains committed to our Think and Do philosophy of solving problems through our trademark combination of incisive scholarship and effective action. More students agree as they join us on this key mission.

NC State is increasingly the university of choice for high-performing students from throughout the state, across the nation and around the world.

— Chancellor Randy Woodson
For the fifth straight year, NC State research expenditures surpassed half a billion dollars. New sponsored research awards stood at $409 million, the highest total in our university’s history. And in May, nonprofit organization Heartland Forward ranked us second among U.S. public universities — and seventh overall — for research commercialization and technology transfer.

Those figures reflect NC State’s status as a national leader in innovation, public-private partnership and moving discoveries from the laboratory to the marketplace. In the last fiscal year alone, 15 new companies were launched based on intellectual property developed at NC State. Government agencies and industry heavyweights continue to flock to our Centennial Campus, which recently saw the opening of Fitts-Woolard Hall, a $150 million expansion of our College of Engineering, and the dedication of the Plant Sciences Building, a $160 million global hub for research in that discipline.

North Carolina depends on the innovation spurred by our university. This past fiscal year, our Economic Development Partnership worked with partners across the state to secure 12 capital investments from industry totaling $3.9 billion, which will lead to the creation of 12,415 new jobs. Multinational companies such as Toyota, VinFast and Spotit join Google, Apple, IBM, SAS and FUJIFILM in citing NC State as a key reason to do business in the Research Triangle and across the state.

Underpinning this growth is a universitywide culture of putting ideas into practice — the Think and Do spirit proudly declared by our students, who are no strangers to getting things done. This year, Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine ranked our university No. 15 in the nation and No. 1 in the Southeast for undergraduate and graduate entrepreneurship.

Aspiring researchers, C-suite executives and some of the world’s leading scientists and engineers all find the same thing at NC State: a launchpad into the future.

Nonprofit organization Heartland Forward ranked NC State #2 among U.S. public universities — and #7 overall — for research commercialization and technology transfer.
Championing Inclusion and Belonging

The North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts — the institution known today as NC State University — was founded on the promise of creating economic, societal and intellectual prosperity for all. As part of our ongoing effort to fulfill that mission, over the past year we’ve implemented measures to ensure that everybody on our campus is a welcomed, included and fully contributing member of the Pack.

For instance, NC State now offers more than 20 unique educational opportunities for students, faculty and staff who want to boost their cultural competence and deepen their understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion. We’ve also added a new slate of diversity-focused events to our regular annual calendar, including an Equity Research Symposium, a Juneteenth Celebration and a Pride Walk. And our Division of Academic and Student Affairs has continued to expand access to crucial student services, including mental health counseling, peer support, personalized career development and free COVID-19 testing and vaccination.

Even as we work to make NC State a better institution of higher education, we’re also striving to help create a society that lives up to our highest ideals: Our Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity partnered with University Communications and Marketing to produce an Inclusive Language Guide that will serve as a valuable resource for everyone who communicates on behalf of NC State.

The College of Education has welcomed its inaugural cohort of Transformational Scholars, with 20 future educators hailing from across eastern North Carolina. Upon graduation, these educational leaders will return home to teach in their communities.

The College of Design leads NC State’s Initiative for Community Growth and Development, which addresses issues and opportunities facing North Carolina communities, such as real estate development, economic growth, infrastructure expansion and ecosystem conservation.

NC State has always prided itself on being a university of the people, and that’s more true now than ever before. As we look to the future, we know our students, faculty, staff and alumni will unite to make sure “prosperity for all” means just that.

Presentations Made at NC State’s Inaugural Equity Research Symposium

1 million Students, Teachers and Parents Served by Diversity Programming Offered by The Engineering Place

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85 Presentations Made at NC State’s Inaugural Equity Research Symposium

— Mladen Vouk, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

By centering equity and inclusion in our research enterprise, we create solutions that benefit everyone.
We take the idea of interdisciplinarity and turn it into something tangible that benefits our faculty, staff, students and community in ways that break down traditional academic barriers.”

— Warwick Arden, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

“A Culture of Collaboration

No one can solve the challenges of the 21st century alone. That’s why at NC State, we’re working together in creative ways and ensuring interdisciplinarity is a key part of our new strategic plan. We formed the Office of University Interdisciplinary Programs to lead academies, initiatives and faculty clusters that encourage collaboration across campus and continue our mission of excellence in research and engagement.

One of our newest interdisciplinary programs, the North Carolina Plant Sciences Initiative, uses data-driven ideas to improve agriculture, both here at home and wherever plants are grown. One of the initiative’s teams — a group of engineers, plant pathologists and microbiologists — is collaborating to study whether fungi can improve crop resilience, and they’re developing tools that will help crops adapt to longer heat waves and bigger hurricanes. Another multidisciplinary team is analyzing images of hundreds of thousands of sweet potatoes and their growth conditions to determine factors that affect size and shape, allowing growers, producers and distributors to eventually deliver better potatoes to the public.

We’re making strides in more than plant health. A new $160 million building in the heart of campus will house the Integrative Sciences Initiative, bringing together scholars and students from chemistry, biological sciences and other fields to tackle health and environmental challenges such as infectious diseases and cancer.

And all students, regardless of major, can take courses through our new Data Science Academy on subjects as varied as biomedical data sharing and data science for social good. This interdisciplinary academy — NC State’s first — will ultimately house a new interdepartmental undergraduate data science minor.

We’re also offering our first umbrella Ph.D. training program through the Genetics and Genomics Academy, where universitywide research interest groups are making advancements in the life sciences, studying topics such as DNA marker discovery, the genetics of disease, and gene and genome evolution.

The grand challenges facing the world don’t confine themselves to disciplinary boundaries. Neither does NC State.
We’ve marked the extraordinary end of an inspirational chapter of philanthropy at NC State, while charting the path toward an even bolder future.

The Think and Do the Extraordinary Campaign, which publicly launched in October 2016, ended Dec. 31, 2021, with $2.1 billion raised from more than 131,000 donors across all 100 North Carolina counties, all 50 states and 70 countries.

Philanthropy has helped NC State strengthen its reputation as the university of choice for outstanding scholars from across North Carolina — and far beyond. Private support broadens access and fosters a more inclusive campus, as our campaign donors demonstrated by creating 1,350 new scholarships and strengthening existing ones to benefit 5,000 more students than before the campaign, launching 70 new fellowships and contributing $22.5 million to 214 distinct funds with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Although the campaign has ended, NC State’s support remains strong. Our fourth annual Day of Giving saw a record 14,533 gifts to more than 600 unique funds on campus. More than 1,800 donors made their first gift to the university on Day of Giving, and alumni from every decade between 1940 and 2020 joined the effort. This broad range of donors and areas receiving support demonstrates the many inspirations for giving and ways to make a difference — both on Day of Giving and throughout the year. Our culture of philanthropy continues to thrive.

What lies ahead builds on these successes. The next phase of philanthropy at NC State focuses on enhancing our physical campus, increasing support for faculty at every career stage and meeting the needs of our undergraduate and graduate students through experiential learning opportunities, scholarships and fundamental resources for success. This is how we are powering the extraordinary, together.

More than 1,800 donors made their first gift to the university on Day of Giving, and alumni from every decade between 1940 and 2020 joined the effort.
There are hard days as a scientist, days when nothing makes sense and you feel inadequate for the task at hand. What gets you through those days is believing that what you are doing is worthwhile and seeing purpose in the challenges you face."

— Caleb Keaveny, Goldwater Scholar

As a top-choice school for students in STEM, business and other fields, NC State takes seriously our role in preparing the workforce of our state and nation. Our students are goal-driven and future-focused. We help them build the skills, insights and connections they need to lead their fields when they leave campus. They continue to earn prestigious awards, including two Goldwater Scholarships and five Fulbright Awards in the past year alone.

We prepare our students to achieve great things by recognizing that success comes from supporting the whole student. We invest in them holistically through our unified Division of Academic and Student Affairs, and the many facilities and support programs across campus designed to foster their academic, personal and professional development.

None of this student success would be possible without our outstanding faculty, who are recognized around the world for their excellence in teaching, their innovative research and industry-shaping thought leadership. In the last year, this recognition included four Fulbright Scholars and eight American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows. In addition, the following faculty members were honored for their achievements:

- Fred Kish, M. C. Dean Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was inducted into the National Academy of Inventors.
- Hollylynne Lee, distinguished professor in the Department of STEM Education, received Baylor University’s Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching.
- Eduardo Corral, an associate professor in the Department of English, was named a Guggenheim Fellow.
- Jason Miller, a professor in the Department of English, and Blair Kelley, associate professor in the Department of History and assistant dean for Interdisciplinary Studies and International Programs in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, were named National Humanities Center Fellows.
- Lilian Hsiao, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, was awarded a 2022 Sloan Research Fellowship.

Cultivating Excellence, Today and Tomorrow

23 Fellows and Members of the National Academy of Inventors
The women’s cross-country team won the Wolfpack’s first team NCAA championship in any sport since 1983, and they took home their sixth ACC championship in a row.

As America celebrated the 50th anniversary of the passage and implementation of Title IX, NC State honored its leading role in establishing women’s college athletics with the most successful season in school history for women’s sports.

In addition, the women’s cross-country team — coached by alumna and former NCAA champion Laurie Henes — won the Wolfpack’s first team NCAA championship in any sport since 1983.

In addition to a men’s swimming individual championship by Kacper Stokowski in the 100-yard backstroke at the NCAA Men’s Championships, Katherine Berkoff of the women’s team brought home the NCAA title in the 100-yard backstroke for the second year in a row.

Women’s tennis won its first national championship of any kind in program history as Jaeda Daniel and Nell Miller teamed up to win the NCAA women’s doubles title. As a team, the Wolfpack was ranked in the top 10 all season long and finished at a program-high No. 6 overall.

At the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, the final athletic event of the Title IX anniversary year, sophomore Katelyn Tuohy became the fifth NC State woman to win the individual national championship in the 5,000-meter race.

In the ACC, women’s cross-country won its sixth consecutive championship, men’s swimming and diving won its seventh title in eight years, wrestling won its fourth consecutive title and women’s basketball won a championship tournament for the record third year in a row.

Overall, four NC State teams finished their season in the top five of their respective sports, and 11 finished in the top 25, closing out a strong year of athletic competition for the Wolfpack.
Top 1% of universities worldwide (Center for World University Rankings)

#4 veterinary medicine program nationally (U.S. News & World Report)

#6 best value among public universities nationally (U.S. News & World Report)

#7 online master’s degree in engineering nationally (U.S. News & World Report)

#10 online bachelor’s degree program nationally (U.S. News & World Report)

#11 graduate statistics program nationally (U.S. News & World Report)

#13 software engineering program nationally (U.S. News & World Report)

#15 in student entrepreneurship nationally; #1 in the Southeast (Entrepreneur/Princeton Review)

Fred Kish, M. C. Dean Distinguished Professor in the College of Engineering, was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

Hollylynne Lee, professor of mathematics and statistics education in the College of Education, received one of the nation’s top teaching awards: the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching.

Clifford Griffin, associate professor in the School of Public and International Affairs, was named a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in International Relations.

Four NC State faculty members were named Fulbright Scholars.

Eight NC State faculty members were elected as fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Ten faculty members were recognized as top young scholars by the National Science Foundation’s Early-Career Development Program.

Twenty-three of our faculty are members of the National Academies.

The National Science Foundation awarded its prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship to 19 NC State students.

Two NC State students won a Goldwater Scholarship, presented to outstanding students in science and technology: physics major Jack Featherstone and aerospace engineering major Andrew Mistele.

Two NC State students won a Churchill Scholarship, presented to outstanding undergraduates preparing for careers as mathematicians, scientists and engineers: computer science and genetics major Nikhil Milind, and computer science and physics major Ana Sofia Uzsoy.

Recent Honors and Accolades