

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NC State Opens ‘New Front Door’; Dedicates Joyner Visitor Center**

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Carolina State University’s new “front door,” the E. Carroll Joyner Visitor Center and Advancement Services Building, officially opens at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21. The building, located at the corner of Western Boulevard and Varsity Drive, will be a tribute to the history, culture and accomplishments of the university and feature interactive exhibits and memorabilia, and will serve as the starting point for campus tours.

The \$5 million building will contain about 27,000 square feet of space, including 2,200 square feet of exhibit space. The contemporary, two-story, glass rotunda area will feature multimedia kiosks, videos and other graphic images that chronicle NC State’s tradition of excellence in teaching, research and extension. The exhibits and videos will provide campus visitors information on the university’s colleges, academic programs, student life, tradition and history, and will showcase the accomplishments of students, staff, faculty and alumni.

Prospective students and their parents will begin their tours of campus at the center, which will also serve student groups and field trips touring the university. The E. Carroll Joyner Visitor Center and Advancement Services Building will house some admissions staff, as well as University Advancement staff, Marketing and News Services.

“This is a great day among many great days for NC State,” said Chancellor James Oblinger. “The center will be the front door to the university and give thousands of students, visitors, researchers and faculty recruits a glimpse into what makes NC State one of the nation’s finest universities. The E. Carroll Joyner Visitor Center will help us promote our role of educating students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, partnering with business and industry and providing relevant solutions to real-world challenges and opportunities.”

Oblinger will be joined by Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker in celebrating the grand opening of the center. The building was made possible by a gift from Edward Carroll Joyner. A 1956 graduate of NC State, Joyner worked his way through school by selling vegetables and washing dishes in the university’s cafeteria.

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When he completed his education, Joyner joined the Army. On completion of his service, he returned to Raleigh to work at a poultry processing company. Joyner went on to own a retail business, become a real estate investor, own and manage restaurants and serve as the vice president for real estate development for the Golden Corral restaurant chain.

Joyner has served as a director of the NC State Foundation Board and of the Veterinary Medical Foundation Board. He has frequently lectured at the NC State College of Management's Entrepreneurial Lecture Series, and, since 1995, sponsored the Carroll Joyner Business Plan Competition in the College of Management, which is open to all students at the university and offers cash prizes to the top three finishers.

Joyner also established the North Carolina Cattlemen's Foundation, which supports beef cattle research at NC State, set up an annuity that provides future funds for the organization and donated his herd of Angus beef cattle to the foundation. He has been awarded The Watauga Medal (the university's highest non-academic award) and also received an honorary Doctor of Human Letters in 2003 and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Outstanding Alumni Award in 2005.