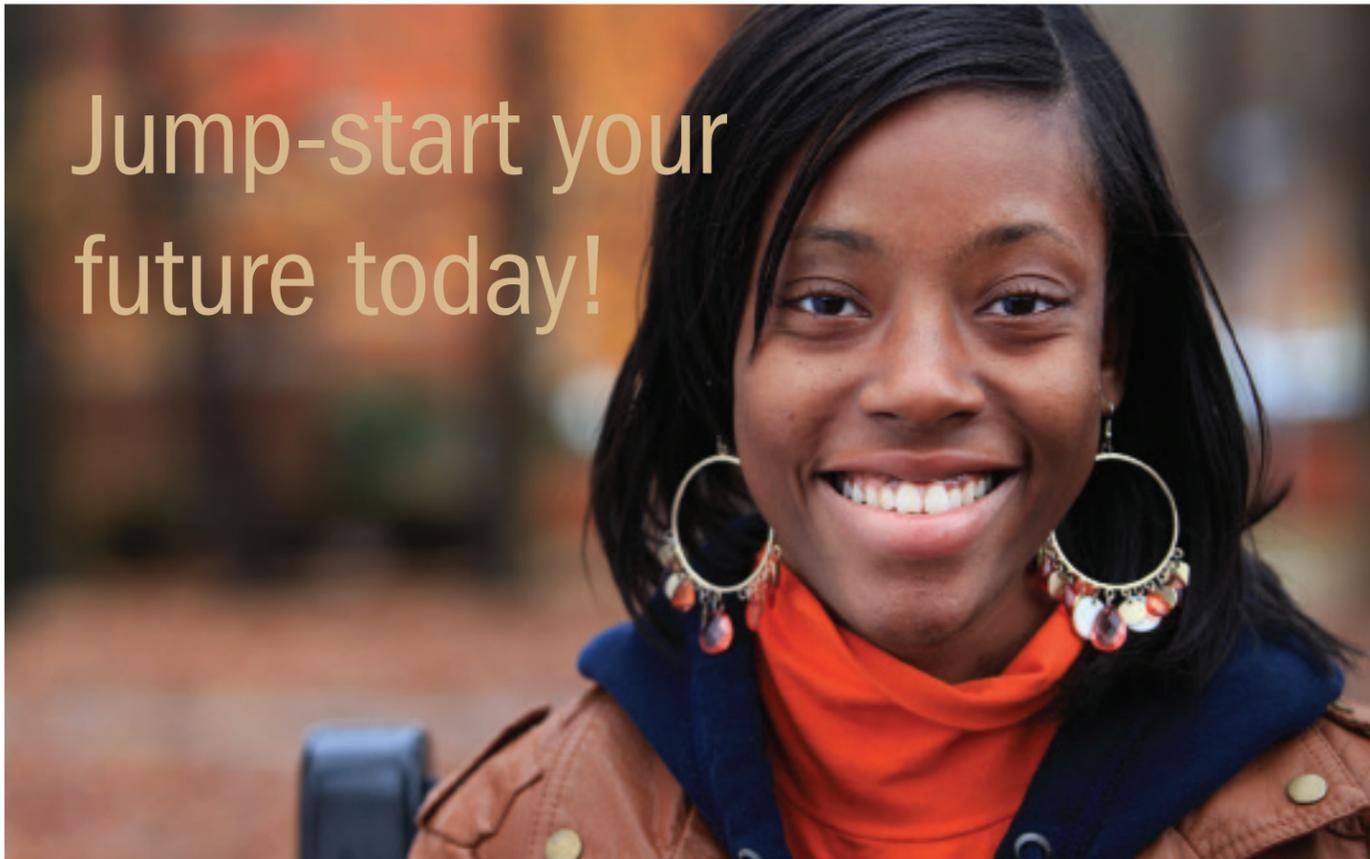




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**DCCC**  
THE COLLEGE OF  
DAVIDSON AND DAVIE COUNTIES

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## The DCCC Highway Interchange

### US 29/70 AT DAVIDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Davidson County Community College is pursuing a unique collaboration between federal, state, and local partners and the College's own Foundation to secure the funding, projected at \$11 million, for the improvement of the US 29/70 corridor at DCCC. The road improvements are critical for the development of the College's new Link Campus and the economic growth of the region. DCCC and its Foundation made a significant commitment to the project in January 2014 by donating land needed for the road improvements and by committing \$1 million in Foundation funds in order to lower the total project cost.



DAVIDSON CAMPUS AND FUTURE LINK CAMPUS

## Link Campus Ensures DCCC's Future

In September 2009, DCCC announced a gift of 183 acres of land to the DCCC Foundation from Lexington residents Ed Hinkle and his sister, Talmadge Hinkle Silversides. The land, located across US 29/70 from the Davidson Campus, is called the Link Campus in memory of the donors' grandfather, Henry T. Link, a legend in the furniture industry. The land gift has almost tripled the physical footprint of the main Davidson Campus.

### Interest in Link Campus is Real

The Link Campus gives DCCC a remarkable chance to grow, and critical academic expansions are a priority. But the new campus also makes it possible to provide other community resources:

- local presence for regional healthcare giants that have already shown interest in partnerships
- the sports arena that cannot be found anywhere in Davidson County
- a natural science building that would offer opportunities for school children
- hiking and cross-country trails, supporting the county's vision for recreation
- physical space for partnerships with other colleges and universities; DCCC will soon host an East Carolina University community dental clinic on its current campus

A recently completed economic development assessment suggests there is significant mixed-use potential on the Link Campus that would benefit both DCCC and the community.

A top concern among outside groups is the status of potential road work on US 29/70 and the related question of access to the Link Campus.

## DCCC Main Campus Hits Capacity

Since DCCC's Davidson Campus took root along US 29/70 (Business 85) in 1963, traffic flow along 29/70 and access to the campus have been a concern. The growing enrollment even in the first decade of the College's existence—when enrollment numbers were still insignificant by today's standards—caused College officials to worry about student safety. Today, with over 15,000 students on an annual basis, thousands of whom access the Davidson Campus on any given day, the road problem is still unresolved. In addition to the existing challenge, DCCC is now faced with creating access between the current campus and the Link Campus.

## The DCCC Highway Interchange

In 2010-11, with the financial support of the High Point Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), an unprecedented collaboration between interested stakeholders led to the adoption of a preferred transportation solution to address access and land use along the US 29/70 corridor near DCCC. The collaborative process between DCCC, Davidson County, the High Point MPO, the regional bus service, and the neighboring cities of Lexington and Thomasville was intended to ensure that all perspectives are considered and that the outcome is supported by all.

A grade-separated interchange between US 29/70 and Old Greensboro Road was identified as the best solution for safe access to DCCC—by car, foot, or bicycle. Important features of the interchange:

- Alleviates safety concerns along US 29/70
- Provides an essential connection between the existing DCCC campus and the new Link Campus
- Improves and simplifies access to DCCC and surrounding areas
- Fits the High Point MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan, which calls for an interchange at this location

- Improves travel times and long-term capacity of the US 29/70 corridor
- Allows economic development in this area, which is currently stifled by access concerns
- Minimizes environmental impacts, which simplifies the construction process and shortens the timeline

## Public-Private Partnerships Can Expedite Completion

In North Carolina, limited resources and a high number of important road projects mean that timelines are often long and funding is difficult to secure. The proposed improvements to the US 29/70 corridor are supported by several unusual circumstances:

- Davidson County Community College and the DCCC Foundation own most of the property affected by the project, dramatically simplifying right-of-way issues and reducing the cost of the project; action was taken by both DCCC Trustees and the Foundation Board in January 2014 to donate the land needed for the road project
- In November 2011, the DCCC Foundation announced it had received its largest gift ever and one of the largest gifts ever received by a North Carolina community college, making it possible to devote resources to development of the Link Campus; in fact, \$1 million in Foundation funds was committed to the road project in January 2014 in order to lower total project cost
- This project, although new, has risen quickly on NCDOT Division 9's priority list due to the weight that both the High Point MPO and the division assign to it
- The unprecedented collaboration between stakeholders to create the road plan reduces the future construction timeline, in part by drastically cutting the time needed for NEPA



## ABOUT DCCC

Davidson County Community College—the only institution of higher education in Davidson and Davie counties—serves over 15,000 people a year at its two campuses and three satellite centers. The Davidson Campus, located on US 29/70, is the oldest and largest of DCCC's five sites. Students first arrived on the Davidson Campus in 1963; DCCC celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2013.

While the College has always been important to the communities it serves, dramatic growth in recent years—in enrollment, programs, innovative initiatives, and physical size—has made the College even more critical to Davidson and Davie counties. Record-breaking numbers of curriculum students—more than 5,000 each year—are evidence that people are re-imagining their own personal capabilities, their futures, and the future of the region. Over 35% of all curriculum students are first-generation students, meaning that they are the first in their families to attend college. Over 80% receive need-based financial aid.

DCCC offers more than 50 degree, diploma, and certificate programs. In 2013, 919 students graduated with associate degrees, certificates, or diplomas. Many graduates continue their educations at four-year institutions, while others go straight into the workforce. Healthcare, transportation, and advanced manufacturing are three top areas of interest for graduates, providing high salaries and excellent job prospects.