

## Next Steps toward Entrepreneurial Leadership

### Foster entrepreneurship education at all levels.

- Integrate financial literacy and entrepreneurship education at the K-12 level, in colleges and universities, and in adult education.

### Broaden financial options for start-ups, research and development, and business growth.

- Support the creation of regional or sub-regional seed stage or angel funds for startups with growth potential.
- Foster entrepreneurship through changes to the state tax code:
  - Provide capital gains tax breaks for founders and angel investors in qualified ventures.
  - Continue and expand the current Qualified Business Venture Tax Credit Program.
- Establish a North Carolina Technology Investment Fund to provide flexible matching funds to attract new federal research and demonstration centers to the state, leverage private funds and create linkages with higher education centers.
- Move the Small Business Innovation Research Matching Funds Program to the recurring portion of the state budget, and increase the program's visibility.

### Invest in a high-quality, integrated system of support services.

- Put in place web-based portals that will allow business owners and prospective entrepreneurs, no matter where they live, to find and evaluate the tailored information and resources they seek.
- Develop better evaluation systems of services by measuring how they benefit small businesses and entrepreneurial activities.
- Increase state funding to technical assistance agencies based on their benefits.

### Strengthen business-to-business networking opportunities.

- Build regional networks of rural entrepreneurs and help these new networks apply lessons from experienced groups.
- Recruit successful entrepreneurs to be mentors and coaches for start-up businesses.

### Enhance the environment for entrepreneurship.

- Develop guidelines for community-based entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Create a new independent entrepreneurship policy think tank with a governing body made up of entrepreneurs.
- Explore policies and reforms that can improve access to affordable health insurance for small businesses, their employees and the self-employed.
- Evaluate and address the data and research needs to better track small business and entrepreneurship and their impacts at the state and local levels in North Carolina.



Taken from the publication:

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