

Of

## 100 YEARS OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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- WHEREAS,** May 8, 2014 marked the Centennial of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which established Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land grant universities in partnership with federal, state and local governments; and
- WHEREAS,** U. S. Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia and U.S. Representative A.F. Lever of South Carolina authored the Smith-Lever Act to expand the “vocational, agricultural and home demonstration programs in rural America” by bringing the research-based knowledge of the land-grant universities to the people where they live and work; and
- WHEREAS,** the North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Buncombe County is a critical component of the three part land-grant university mission and works collaboratively with research and academic programs associated with the North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University to reach traditional and underserved audiences in all communities across North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** the Cooperative Extension System continues to receive federal programmatic leadership and support enabled by the Smith Lever Act and other legislation through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and
- WHEREAS,** the Smith-Lever Act requires a partnership between county, state and federal governments and encourages priorities be established locally to meet the needs of each county; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina Cooperative Extension education disseminated through Buncombe County for agriculture producers has helped establish North Carolina as a leading agriculture producing state; 4-H youth development has reached millions of youth and helped prepare them for responsible adulthood by equipping them with citizenship and leadership skills; family and consumer sciences has prepared people for healthy, productive lives and breaking the cycle of poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Buncombe County engages with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, resulting in acquisition of knowledge, skills and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and prepare the next generation of leaders.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That this Board encourages the people of Buncombe County to observe and celebrate the centennial by: thanking Cooperative Extension volunteers who promote excellence in 4-H; serve as Master Gardeners; and serve in family and consumer sciences and other programs in their communities.
2. That this Board encourages continued collaboration and cooperation among federal, state and local governments to ensure Cooperative Extension’s sustainability as the nation’s premiere non-formal educational network.
3. That this proclamation be effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

### BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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**DAVID GANTT,  
CHAIRMAN**