

Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County

Update for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



About Us



**ACCREDITED
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION**

International Economic Development Council

The EDC is a 27-year, public-private partnership of Buncombe County, the City of Asheville and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

Advancing opportunity, quality of life and economic sustainability in Buncombe County through workforce investment, high-wage job creation & economic diversification



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



RIVERBIRD RESEARCH



HEIDI REIBER
Senior Director of Research



MAGGIE SMITH
Research Analyst



SAM MANSKE
Intern

Riverbird Research is a division of the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. Over the past 25 years, the Research team has remained a trusted source for economic data in the Asheville Metro and Western North Carolina region. The experience, analytics, and tools of Riverbird Research inform not only the AVL 5X5 Strategy, but promotes data-driven decision making by governmental leadership, non-profit partners, Chamber members and communities.

ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH AND VENTURE ASHEVILLE



JEFFREY KAPLAN
Director of Entrepreneurship
Venture Asheville



DESIREE MONSTROLA
Executive Operations
Manager



ISAIAH GREEN
Intern

Venture Asheville was launched in 2014 in an innovative and comprehensive effort to cultivate the next generation of Asheville-headquartered business. Focusing our human and financial resources on high-growth companies with the capacity to scale nationally and internationally, Venture Asheville builds the entrepreneurial ecosystem through connection, mentorship and funding.



CLARK DUNCAN
Executive Director

BUSINESS RETENTION, EXPANSION, AND RECRUITMENT



APRIL BROWN
Director of Industry
Recruitment and Expansion



MAXWELL OLLE
Industry Specialist



GABRIELLE MARTIN
Intern

The cornerstone economic development remains the retention local industry and capacity building for future expansion. It also includes the recruitment of complementary businesses that expand economic opportunity, strengthen high value target industries and advance community goals.

WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



SAMANTHA COLE
Workforce Partnership
Manager



TIARRA WILKIE
Workforce Partnership
Specialist

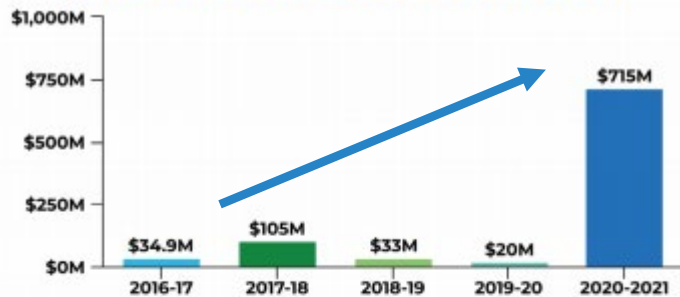


SENURI FERNANDO
Intern

The AVL5x5 2025 Strategy elevates the work of strategic and equitable workforce development. From programming that promotes inclusive hiring, strategic mentorship and skilled apprenticeship, these investments underscore the importance of lifelong learning to the economy of the region.



CAPITAL INVESTMENT (FY)



New capital investment of announced companies (building, machinery and equipment). Does not include purchase price of existing land or building.

JOB COUNT (FY)



Number of jobs represents new positions created by announced companies.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT (FY)



2020-2021 (FY) PERFORMANCE METRICS

947

New Jobs

\$715M

New Capital Investments

\$66,595

Overall Wage Average of New Jobs

19

Startups Served by the ELEVATE PROGRAM

\$500k

Capital Invested by the Asheville Angels

\$12.2M

Capital Raised by Venture Asheville Start-Ups



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Activities & Accomplishments: Riverbird Research



- Monthly Economic Indicators
<https://www.ashevillechamber.org/research-economy/>
- C2ER Cost of Living Index Reporting
<https://www.ashevillechamber.org/research-economy/cost-of-living/>
- Creative Economy & Jobs Report
<https://ashevillearts.com/advocacy/creative-economy/>
- 21st Annual Metro Economy
& 3rd Annual Metro Growth Breakfast
<https://riverbirdresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Growth-Breakfast-2020-Final.pdf>
- WNC Outdoor Economy Asset Inventory & Gap Analysis



Activities & Accomplishments: Local Industry Expansion



"Since SLC moved to Arden in 2017, we have been able to grow significantly thanks to the favorable conditions found in Buncombe County and for being able to attract excellent talent. Special thanks to the authorities of Buncombe County and to the EDC for their support and partnership."

- Stephano Vitale, CEO & President

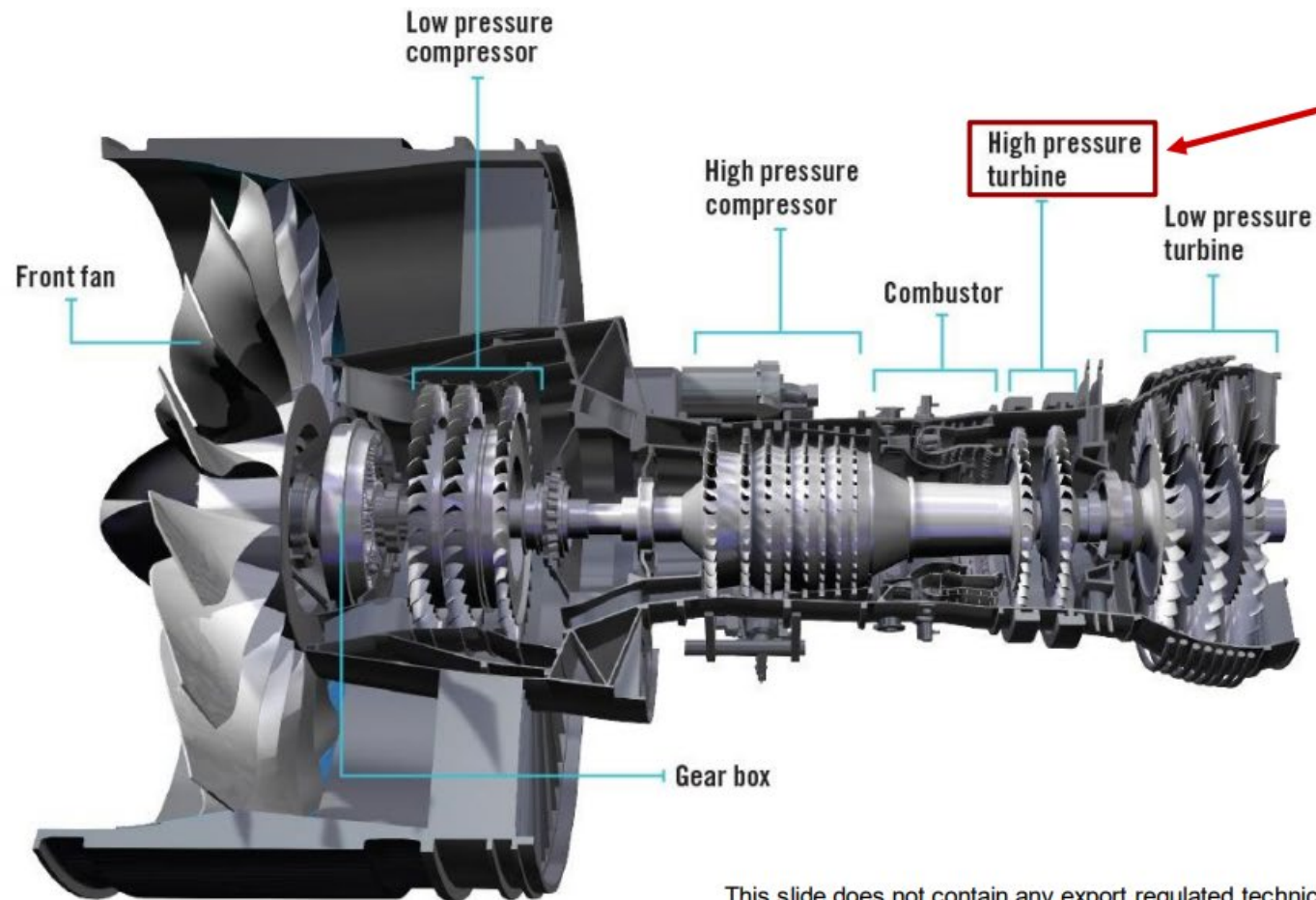


"We are very pleased to continue expanding our operations in Asheville. This expansion is evidence of the confidence Borg Warner has in the outstanding local workforce and their ability to compete in the global markets we serve."

- Brian Leising, Plant General Manager



Activities & Accomplishments: Pratt & Whitney Recruitment



Asheville Products



Blade



Vane

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Activities & Accomplishments: Goals of New Industry Recruitment



\$650M

NEW TAX BASE

100%

CORPORATE
EQUALITY INDEX
HRC 2021

60%

ABOVE AVG
WAGE

LEED

SILVER

100%

WASTEWATER
RECYCLING

100%

UPFRONT
EDUCATION
FUNDING

16%

MORE
FUEL
EFFICIENT

50%

REDUCTION
NOX
EMMISSIONS

\$25M

GIFT TO NAACP
EDUCATION AND
LEGAL DEFENSE
FUND 2020

\$68k

AVG WAGE

75%

NOISE
REDUCTION

800

STEM
CAREERS

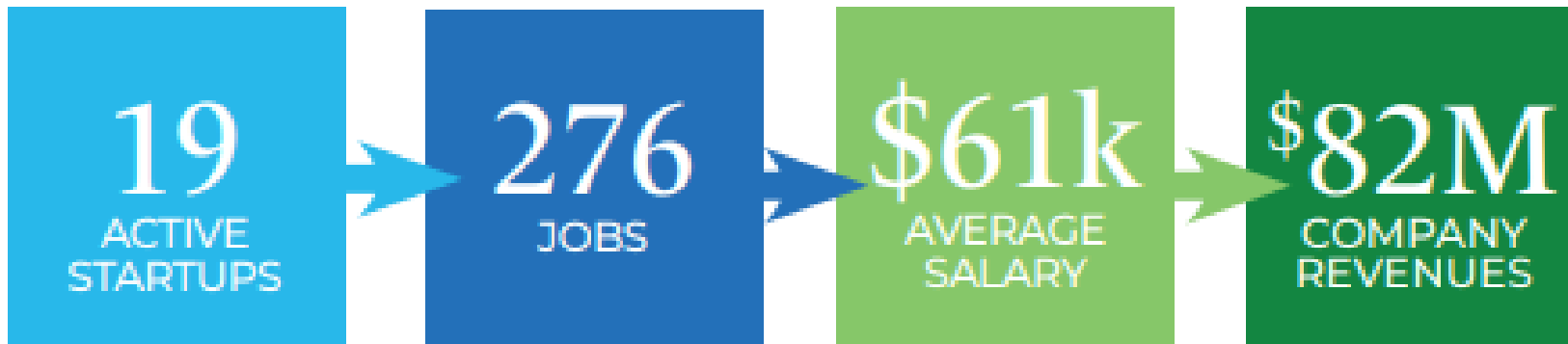
\$5M

INDUSTRY
TRAINING
CENTER

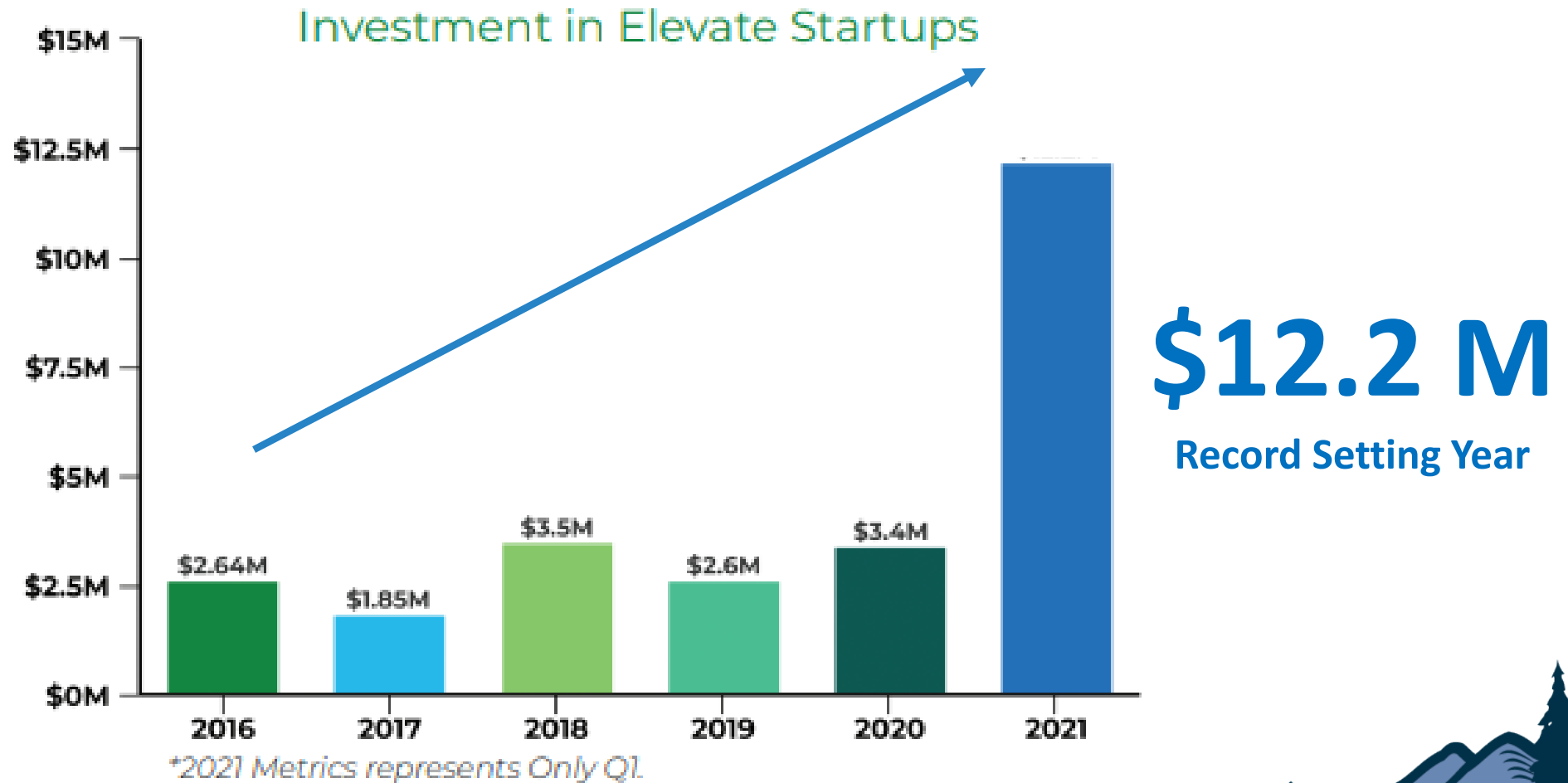


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Activities & Accomplishments: Entrepreneurial Development & Venture Asheville



Activities & Accomplishments: Entrepreneurial Development & Venture Asheville



Activities & Accomplishments: Workforce Partnerships & Economic Mobility



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Activities & Accomplishments: Workforce Partnerships & Economic Mobility



INCLUSIVE HIRING PARTNERS

A resource to close the opportunity gap
for Buncombe County residents

SERVICE PROVIDER PARTNERS



SKILLS AND TRAINING PARTNERS



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

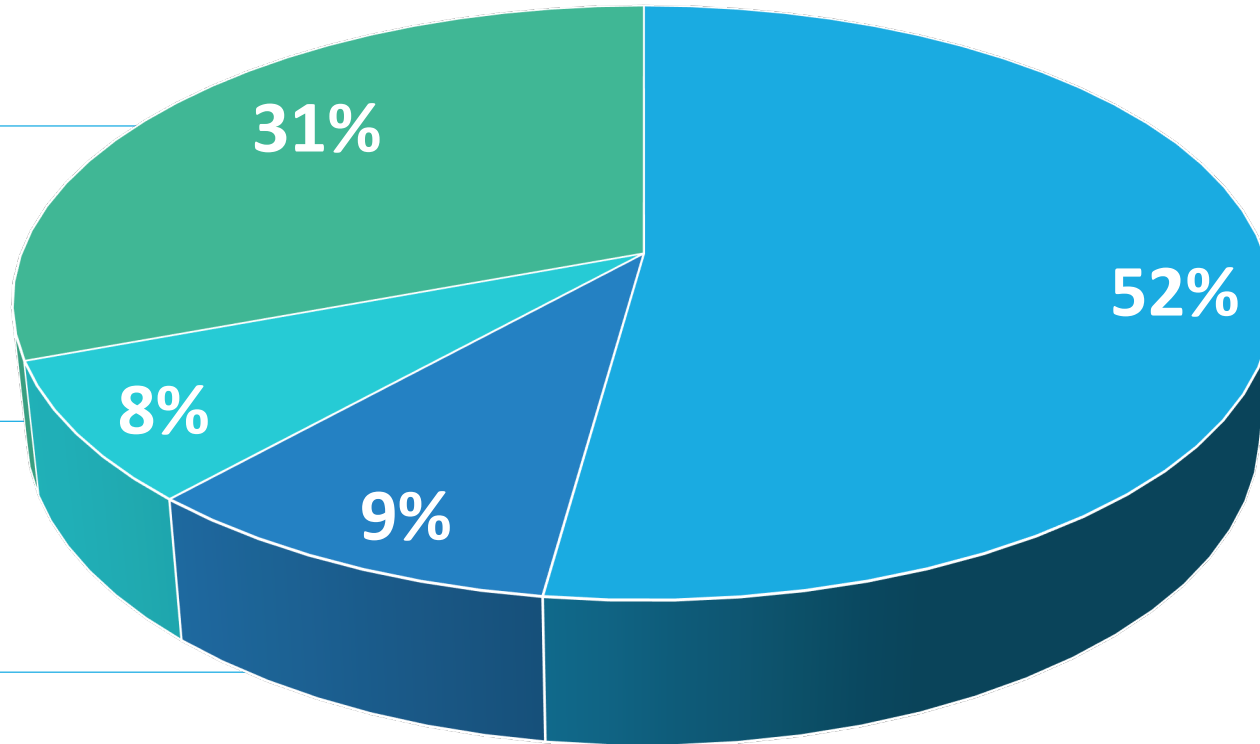


Financial Update

FY2022 Operating Budget \$1,302,585



Golden **LEAF**
FOUNDATION



ASHEVILLE
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Thank you



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