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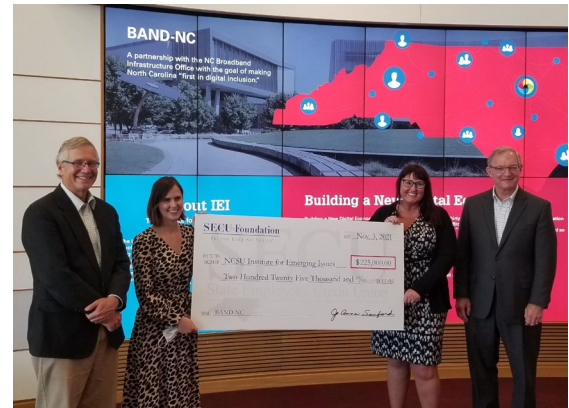
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SECU Foundation

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE®

SECU Foundation Provides Grant to Institute for Emerging Issues for Digital Inclusion Initiative

Raleigh, N.C. – SECU Foundation is continuing its long-standing support for the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University with a \$225,000 grant to assist with the expansion of IEI's statewide digital inclusion program, Building a New Digital Economy in NC (BAND-NC). IEI will appropriate the Foundation grant funds to provide 20 communities in the Northeast, Northwest, and Sandhills regions with the resources to establish a digital planning process or implement a digital inclusion plan to increase access to affordable internet services and devices for North Carolinians. Through BAND-NC, IEI seeks to make North Carolina the first state in the nation where every county has a digital inclusion plan, along with strategies to help all residents obtain and effectively use internet services.



L to R: Leslie Boney, Institute of Emerging Issues (IEI) Director, and Maggie Woods, IEI Policy and Program Manager, receive ceremonial check from Julie Parrish, SECU District Senior Vice President, and Stuart Hudson, SECU Regional Senior Vice President.

“In today’s environment, the internet and supported devices such as computers and cellphones are vital to how we engage with others, learn, work, and know what’s going on in our local communities and the world,” said Stuart Hudson, SECU Regional Senior Vice President. “BAND-NC will help fill the gap for those with little or no access to internet services, especially in rural or underserved areas of our state. SECU Foundation is proud to help the Institute for Emerging Issues move forward with great success to bring digital equity to all 100 counties of our state.”

“Higher broadband adoption rates are closely linked to increased economic success,” said Leslie Boney, Director of the Institute for Emerging Issues. “This grant gives us a chance to work with counties in regions lagging behind – to increase digital literacy and the number of homes using broadband for education, work and health.”

About SECU and the SECU Foundation

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, SECU has been providing employees of the state of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for 84 years. The Credit Union also offers a diversified line of financial advisory services including retirement and education planning, tax preparation, insurance, trust and estate planning services, and investments through its partners and affiliated entities. SECU serves over 2.6 million members through 274 branch offices, over 1,100 ATMs, 24/7 Member Services via phone, a website, www.ncsecu.org and a Mobile App. Members can also follow and subscribe to SECU on Facebook and YouTube. The SECU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization funded by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high impact projects in the areas of

housing, education, healthcare and human services. Since 2004, [SECU Foundation](#) has made a collective financial commitment of over \$216 million for initiatives to benefit North Carolinians statewide. In addition to the website, highlights are also available on the SECU Foundation Instagram page.