

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# SECU Foundation

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## SECU Foundation and North Carolina Coastal Federation Collaborate to Protect Coastal Communities

**MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.** – [SECU Foundation](#) and [North Carolina Coastal Federation](#) (NCCF) are teaming up to help protect and enhance five North Carolina coastal communities through a three-year expansion of NCCF resilience projects. The Foundation’s advocacy for their valuable work brought a \$250,000 challenge grant to directly support the development of programs to build coastal resiliency, reduce vulnerability to environmental threats, and strengthen local infrastructure and economy.



Holding check left to right are Mayor Sharon Harker, Beaufort; NCCF Executive Director Todd Miller; and SECU Vice President Jonathan Godwin, Beaufort Branch; with representatives from Carteret Community College, NCCF Board, SECU, and SECU Foundation.

NCCF serves the coastal zone of the state, which includes 20 counties and over 100 municipalities that have areas struggling with poverty, extreme racial disparity, and economic inequity. Of the 20 counties, 14 are in [Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties](#). In 2022, NCCF restored over seven acres of oyster reef and nearly 2,000 acres of wetlands, cleaned up nearly 420 tons of marine debris, and mobilized over 600 volunteers to support this work.

“This project is a wonderful opportunity to proactively support coastal communities by protecting and restoring our state’s coastal areas that are threatened by environmental and economic challenges,” said SECU Foundation Executive Director Jama Campbell. “This valuable and important work will help sustain community infrastructure and ensure future cultural and economic opportunities for residents, visitors, and our state.”

“Over the past four decades, the Federation has helped dozens of local governments plan and implement projects that support the community and the ecosystem, ranging from salt marsh restoration, watershed plans, living shorelines, and more. These projects make our communities more resilient to storms and sea level rise and bring federal dollars to support coastal improvement projects. We’re grateful for the leadership support of SECU Foundation in launching this new partnership,” said Coastal Federation Executive Director Todd Miller.

Projects like this are funded by SECU members through SECU Foundation and provide opportunities for local branch staff to volunteer and engage with non-profits for community initiatives, such as with NCCF for coastline cleanups and living shoreline projects.

**About SECU and SECU Foundation**

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, and federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), SECU has been providing employees of the state of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for 86 years. SECU is the second largest credit union in the United States with \$50 billion in assets. It serves over 2.7 million members through 275 branch offices, over 1,100 ATMs, Member Services Support via phone, [www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org), and a Mobile App. 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 \$258 million for initiatives to benefit North Carolinians statewide.