

Surry Yadkin Collaborative

Surry and Yadkin Counties

Collaborative Case Study

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What is Surry Yadkin Collaborative?

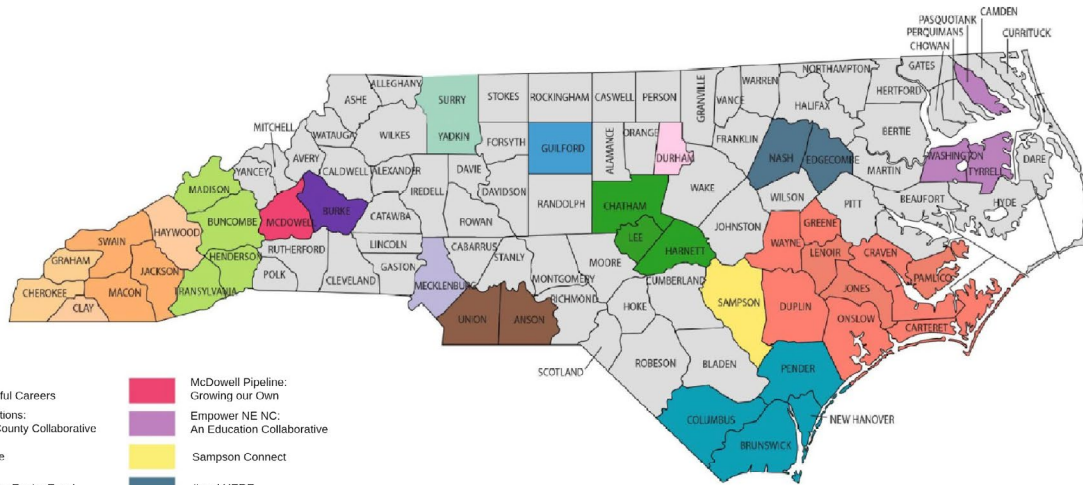
The Surry Yadkin Collaborative is a myFutureNC Local Educational Attainment Collaborative (LEAC) that seeks to increase access to educational and career pathways for vulnerable populations and increase community college student retention.





Relationships and Connections: Primary Partners

myFutureNC Local Educational Collaboratives



Surry Community College

Serves as primary coordinator among stakeholders, collects relevant project data, and develops and implements programming for students.

Yadkin County Schools

Surry County Schools

Mount Airy City Schools

Elkin City Schools

Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce

Surry County Economic Development Partnership

Yadkin County Government

Piedmont Regional Council's Workforce

Economic Development Program





Practices and Outcomes

The Surry Yadkin Collaborative, a myFutureNC LEAC, has undertaken two primary initiatives to increase access, enrollment, and retention of all students in post-secondary education. First, the collaborative established a Purpose Center that provides a standardized intake process for all students at Surry Community College. Newly enrolled students take a career assessment and receive individualized counseling to help them articulate their career interests and match their existing credentials to a career pathway. The center also collaborates with community-based organizations that help introduce vulnerable populations to resources and pathway programs offered by the college.

Second, the collaborative coordinates with community and government agencies that work with incarcerated populations and those recovering from opioid addiction. “We are working with the county to provide basic skills training to people recovering from addiction,” says Corey Easter, director of business and industry services for Surry Community College. By introducing people transitioning out of prison and from addiction to basic OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) training, the college reduces entry barriers to higher education for populations in transition while also building a workforce pipeline.

“Participating in the LEAC program gave us a lens through which we could view our processes, understand the data we’re collecting, and ensure continuous improvement,” says Forrest Lineberry, vice president of student services for the community college. “We have a background in Lean Six Sigma, so we can collect meaningful data and make the necessary adjustments to meet our goals based on our new line of sight.”



Policies and Other Barriers

To move forward with an eye toward sustainability, the Surry Yadkin Collaborative must tackle the challenge of communicating effectively with all stakeholders involved. The LEAC works to continuously engage community-based organizations to sustain their participation, align partners’ goals, and track the group’s progress. However, communicating in a way that captivates busy stakeholders has been challenging, especially when the collaborative’s steering committee is stretched with demanding programmatic work through the Purpose Center.



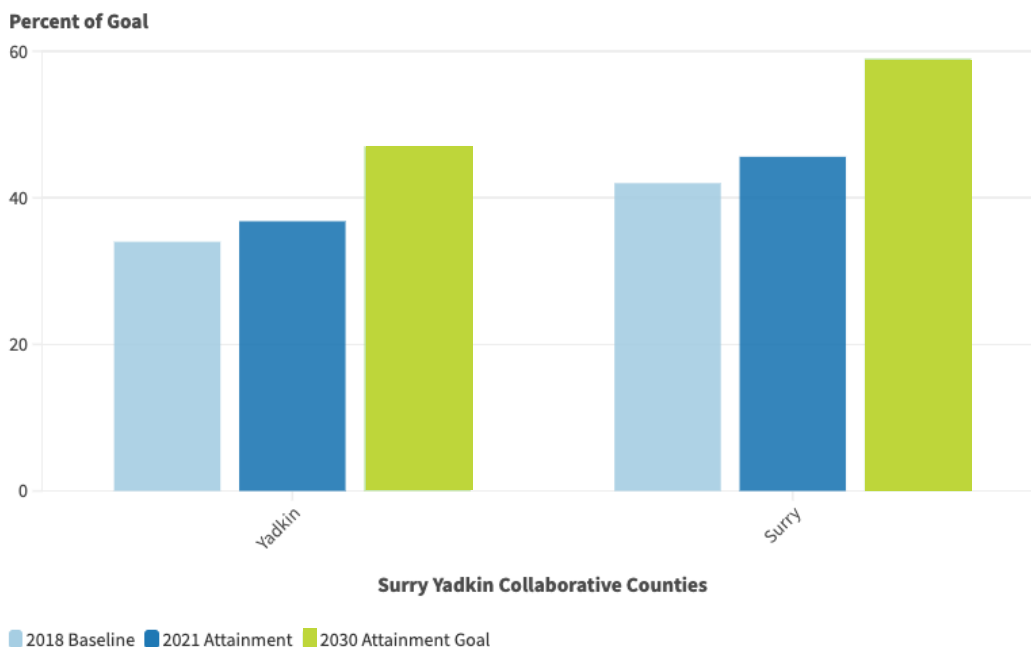
Resource Flows and Sustainability

The future involves training staff and the collaborative's participants to adopt the LEAC's focus on continuous improvement and a data-driven culture. The LEAC is forward-thinking in that it considers professional development a sustainability measure for the collaborative's work. The Surry Yadkin collaborative leaders place a premium on building all stakeholders' expertise in process improvement, especially the skills and knowledge to evaluate processes and back up evaluations with quantifiable data.

The collaborative has extended its work by participating in the ncIMPACT Our State Our Work (OSOW) program, with the Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board (PTRWDB) as the lead and partners that include the school systems in Caswell, Davie, Forsyth, Rockingham, Surry, Stokes, and Yadkin counties.

To further expand the collaborative's footprint in the community, Surry Community College leadership plans to reach out to faith-based community leaders to expand recruitment efforts among historically under-engaged populations.

myFutureNC Local Educational Attainment Collaboratives Measuring Progress





Mental Model and Power Sharing

This LEAC has changed the game in its local sustainability support for apprenticeship programs through investments from the boards of county commissioners in Surry and Yadkin counties. The model communicates to local employers, "Your local governments are your partners in developing the workforce of our counties."

