Centennial Campus Celebrates Collaborations

By Gene Pinder

NC State’s Centennial Campus marked 30 years of success recently with an event that drew corporate, governmental and nonprofit leaders, along with current tenants and university partners.

Chancellor Randy Woodson cited the importance of the campus in the university’s overall strategic plan — and encouraged all gathered to continue making it one of the finest research campuses in North America.

From empty farm fields to an internationally recognized innovation center, Centennial has seen tremendous progress in the 30 years since 1,227 acres, originally part of the Dorothea Dix hospital complex, were deeded to NC State. Soon the campus had buildings with businesses and academic programs.

Today, Centennial has more than 70 corporate, governmental and nonprofit partners, along with more than 75 academic programs. It is also home to the renowned Hunt Library, the Lonnie Poole Golf Course, the Park Alumni Center, the chancellor’s residence known as The Point, privately built apartments and townhomes, the Wolf Ridge student housing complex, walking and bike trails, a nine-hole disc golf course, ball fields and the publicly accessible Lake Raleigh. Centennial also includes the biomedical campus housing the College of Veterinary Medicine, located across from the North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

But the best may be yet to come.

Woodson also unveiled a video of Vision 2034, the university’s strategic vision to turn Centennial Campus into North America’s premier innovation destination.

The campus will be a proving ground for new and innovative technologies — including some for advanced transportation — as well as collaborative spaces and places. The plan also calls for remotely connecting NC State equipment, classrooms and labs with researchers globally.

Vision 2034 calls for a vibrant campus that not only encompasses a town center but also celebrates the arts and honors achievements by NC State’s leading innovators and scholars. Learn more at centennial.ncsu.edu.