Research is an exciting endeavor in itself, but through hard work and partnership, at NC State we often experience the thrill of applying our discoveries in the real world. There are so many great examples of NC State’s research impacts, it was difficult to decide which stories to feature in this issue.

Discussions at this year’s Raleigh Innovation Summit will focus on what is needed for the region to be recognized as a “top five” center for innovation and entrepreneurship. Who knows what big idea today will be a reality in 2014?

Innovate Raleigh continues as the umbrella organization for many public/private/academic activities. Along with NC State and the City of Raleigh, partners are Raleigh Economic Development, Wake County Economic Development, the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, Wake Technical Community College, the Wake County Public School System and the Council for Entrepreneurial Development.

Here at NC State, we have brought various offices and programs to the building now known as the Poulton Innovation Center, named for Bruce Poulton, whose tenure as chancellor included Centennial Campus’ early days. The center’s second floor is home to the Springboard Innovation Hub, which includes the Concierge, Centennial Campus Partnership Office, Industry Alliances, Office of Technology Transfer, Research Development Office, Venture Development, and the Small Business Technology and Development Center.

Audacious may have been the description of early Centennial Campus visions shared by Poulton and others. Their dreams of public/private partnerships have come true. Now we are shaping new visions for a future focused on innovation.

I am often at Springboard, working with university, industry, and community partners. Stop by to share your big idea. In the meantime, join the conversation on Twitter at #InnovateRal and with @NCStateResearch.

TERRI L. LOMAX
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