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Carolina graduate student to help with revitalizing Gates and Chowan counties

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is helping to revitalize the economies of small communities across the state through its internship program, the Carolina Economic Revitalization Corps.

The program is sending Fredrick Davis, a rising second-year graduate student in the department of city and regional planning, to work for 10 weeks with North Carolina's Northeast Commission office in Edenton. Davis will provide research and grant-writing support for the commission as well as offer assistance for community and economic development projects.

"We are excited about this UNC initiative," said Vann Rogerson, president and chief executive officer of the Northeast Commission. "Fredrick is a talented and well-educated person, so we look forward to working with him."

With a degree in architecture from Hampton University and experience working with the Research Triangle Park architecture firm of O'Brien/Atkins Associates, Davis will also help the Gates County staff as they develop future plans for the Sunbury Elementary School. A Durham native, Davis will use his skills from serving on the Durham Planning Commission to work on planning and development projects in Chowan County.

Davis hopes to gain a better understanding of what makes small towns unique and build upon their assets to better provide sustainable community and economic development.

"I consider it an honor to be selected amongst a group of talented individuals here at the University," Davis said. "I hope to be an asset to Edenton as well as the entire northeast region of North Carolina."

Davis is one of six interns who will participate in the Revitalization Corps this summer. Started in 2009 as the Carolina Economic Recovery Corps to respond to communities that needed help applying for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, the university-wide program was created by the Office of Economic and Business Development and is administered by the School of Government. Funding comes from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, the Graduate School and the N.C. Rural Center. The program continues this summer as a way to give graduate students considerable on-the-job experience while helping municipalities with community and economic development planning.

The interns come from the departments of city and regional planning in the College of Arts and Sciences, public administration in the School of Government and the Gillings School of Global Public Health. They trained at the School of Government before taking a full-time position at a regional organization located in North Carolina. When they return

to UNC for the fall semester, the interns will spend 12 hours per week working remotely during the school year. Interns receive a paid stipend, tuition support and graduate student health insurance.

In addition to the Northeast Commission, interns this year have been assigned to work with the Cape Fear Council of Governments in Wilmington, the Lumber River Council of Governments in Pembroke, the Land-of-Sky Council of Governments in Asheville, Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments in Henderson and the Bayboro Small Towns Economic Prosperity Committee in Bayboro.

Map showing corps member placements: <http://bit.ly/aTTB9q>

Photo:

<http://uncnews.unc.edu/images/stories/news/students/2010/fredrickdavis.jpg>

Office of Economic and Business Development contacts: Jesse White, (919) 843-5454, jwhite@unc.edu; Joshua Levy, (919) 843-5453, jwlevy@email.unc.edu School of Government contact: Jason Nelson, (919) 962-6841, jnelson@unc.edu News Services contact: Susan Houston, (919) 962-8415, susan_houston@unc.edu