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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

As we celebrate dynamic growth and resilience within Durham, I am proud to highlight some of the impactful initiatives shaping our community's future. The BULLS Academies continue to empower Durham's young adults by providing industry certifications and career pathways in biopharma manufacturing, strongly supported by Durham County's ongoing commitment. Our small business spotlight shines on Anevia Johnson of CakesByAnevia, whose inspiring journey from pandemic layoff to successful entrepreneur exemplifies the spirit of innovation and determination thriving here. Finally, the unparalleled asset of Research Triangle Park

remains a beacon of innovation and opportunity, anchoring Durham as a hub for cutting-edge research and business growth. Together, these stories reflect the strength and collaborative spirit that define Durham's workforce development, small business vitality, and business recruitment partnerships.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Andrew Miracle'.

Andrew Miracle
Director of Economic Development
Durham County



From L to R: Matt Filter, Sabria Futrell, Brandi Minor, Andrew Miracle



Hiring & Training Durham Residents to Fill Recruited Jobs

The BULLS Academies are a community partnership that connects Durham residents (18-25 years old) seeking economic mobility to industry certification and employment. To ensure that students are properly equipped for the coursework at Durham Tech, BULLS offers success coaching, engagement resources, and financial support.

Durham County has been instrumental to the program by providing seed funding starting in 2021 and committed support through 2026. Current graduates can work at recruited companies offering Biopharma Manufacturing roles after completion of the coursework.

To learn more about the program and current cohort opportunities, please visit: www.madeindurham.org/bulls-academy

BULLS IMPACT THROUGH COHORT 10

92%

GRADUATION
RATE OVER LAST
FOUR COHORTS

161*

BULLS ACADEMY
GRADUATES

*Some graduates continuing
education at DTCC;
24 May graduates actively
seeking industry employment

51*

CURRENTLY EMPLOYED
IN LIFE SCIENCES

*Identified as of 6/1/25;
dependent on graduate
response to confirm



Address: 1533 Ellis Road, Durham, NC 27703

Phone Number: (919) 637-6609

Facebook: www.facebook.com/p/Cakes-By-Anevia-100077769666775/



Meet Anevia Johnson, the heart and hands behind

CakesByAnevia— a custom cake and catering business born out of both necessity and passion. When Anevia was laid off at the start of the COVID pandemic, she turned a challenging moment into an opportunity, channeling her love for baking into a thriving home-based business. While pursuing her degree in Culinary Arts & Restaurant Management at Durham Tech, which she completed in May 2024, Anevia took a leap of faith that blossomed into a successful venture.

Since officially opening in April 2021, CakesByAnevia has delighted the Durham community with custom cakes, cupcakes, decorative cookies, mini Bundt cakes, cheesecakes, and more. Anevia's business also offers wedding and event catering services, with a focus on personalized treats and memorable experiences.

What sets CakesByAnevia apart is the genuine passion behind every creation. Anevia's love for baking began at age eight, making her first box cake with her dad and spending summers in the kitchen with her Great Aunt Debra Holloway. Today, that same love and dedication shine through in every order, making CakesByAnevia a business built on family tradition, creativity, and heartfelt service.



**All companies featured in the spotlight have previously done business with Durham County.*



LAUNCH LAB ACCELERATOR

September 9 – November 14, 2025

Are you an early-stage founder with a big idea and an even bigger drive to make it happen?

We're inviting passionate entrepreneurs to apply for our 10-week accelerator program, designed to give you the tools, mentorship, and community to bring your startup vision to life!

In this hands-on program, you'll gain essential skills to develop, test, and grow your business. You will learn how to craft a Lean Canvas, develop a prototype, identify customer personas, and leverage AI for growth! The Launch Lab accelerator is packed with practical workshops that will catalyze your startup!

Selected candidates will receive a significant financial investment in their business upon program completion.



KEY DATES

- Applications are open
Until **Friday August 18th**
Apply at: bit.ly/4keefNH
- Selected participants will
be notified by **August 25th**
- Launch Lab (10 weeks)
(**Sept. 9-Nov. 14, 2025**)

Apply now at bit.ly/4keefNH to join a cohort of like-minded founders and start building the foundation for a successful business. **This could be the leap your startup needs!**

FREE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

CONNECTING DURHAM'S
SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS
TO A NETWORK OF EXPERTS!

LEARN TO EARN!

Our innovative program rewards entrepreneurs for engaging in valuable learning and networking. You can earn credits to put towards vital services and products needed to launch and grow your business!



WE'LL GUIDE YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY AS YOU:



DREAM

Refine your business plan and strategy

CONNECT

Prioritize your needs and connect to the right resources



GROW

Develop the skills you need to successfully run your business



YOU'LL RECEIVE

- ✓ Counseling
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ FREE Services & Products



FINANCE

Find the type of capital you need and apply for funding

NETWORK

Meet other small business owners and resource providers





3RD THU

JOIN US

FREE Networking & Small Business Workshops!

Third Thursday is a monthly opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with fellow entrepreneurs in the heart of our community.



Third Thursday of each month
5:30PM - 8:00PM



NC Mutual Building
411 West Chapel Hill Street
Durham, NC 27701

RSVP at

bit.ly/E3D3rdThursdays

or scan the QR code!



MEET OTHER SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND RESOURCE PARTNERS

Networking Opportunities

Connect with other local business owners and build valuable relationships.

Expert Knowledge

Gain insights and advice from industry experts to help your business thrive.

Free Resources

Access tools and resources tailored to support your business journey.



www.e3durham.org



Spotlight: Research Triangle Park (RTP)

Research Triangle Park (RTP) is the largest research park in the United States and arguably the world's most successful. It is a significant asset when it comes to recruiting companies to Durham County. Located at the center of three Tier-1 research universities, RTP's 7,000 acres house hundreds of companies and thousands of employees, including science and technology firms, government agencies, academic institutions, startups and nonprofits. Some of the [companies in RTP](#) include [BASE](#), [Beam Therapeutics](#), [Dell](#), [Eli Lilly](#), [Fidelity Investments](#), [GRAIL](#), [IBM](#), [RTI International](#), [Underwriters Laboratory](#) (UL), [United Therapeutics](#), and more. RTP is split between two counties, with approximately 78% of the land in unincorporated Durham County. Innovation and collaboration continues to this day, as the [Research Triangle Park Foundation](#) has lead a public-private partnership to develop an innovative mixed-use hub for RTP in [HUB RTP](#) and well as the [Boxyard](#).

Last year, RTP commissioned an economic impact study for the park. Some of the key findings include:

