Elizabeth City State University believes that its role in community and economic development is one of a collaborative partner, taking the lead in areas where appropriate and leveraging its strengths and assets in a supportive role in others.

- Collaborative Partnerships with economic development agencies-leveraging university resources and assets to positively impact the economic health of the region
- Internships – provides experiential learning opportunities for students, as well as providing valuable services for business, government, and non-profit entities
- Continuing Education – provides non-credit courses to enhance workplace skills. Through a partnership with NCSU-IES, offer needed, approved OSHA training to companies and businesses in the Northeast previously only available outside the region.
- Entrepreneurial Development – provides support and academic coursework to promote entrepreneurial growth. In collaboration with the SBTDC, the Rural Center and the College of the Albemarle Small Business Center, the School of Business is working to fully establish its Center for Entrepreneurial Development
- Homebuyer Seminars – provides information and assistance for first-time homebuyers

Brief highlights of our work:

- Chancellor’s Industry Advisory Committee – comprised of business and industry leaders that meet quarterly to provide input on how the university can better meet their needs and to raise the awareness of the university and its programs
- The university recently convened a regional Economic Development Summit to gather input from business, industry, and governmental leaders as to how it can better engage its assets to positively impact the economic growth of the area.
- Currently evaluating the Aviation Science program as to how it can better serve industry and how to integrate it with other programs on campus to support the State initiative in the emerging field of remotely piloted vehicles
- Aviation Science conducts two ACE (Aviation Careers Exploration) Academies each summer to introduce students to careers in aviation. The camps are targeted to minority and economically disadvantaged students, with one camp coed and the other strictly for girls.
- Collaborative Initiative with NCSU to engage ECSU faculty, staff, and students with IES projects, where appropriate in the ECSU service territory
- The Community Development Program is providing local residents free, HUD-approved housing counseling in the various aspects of homeownership, including mortgages, home improvements and rehabilitation, and predatory lending.
- The Drug Information Center provides relevant, accurate, and unbiased information about prescription and non-prescription medications to healthcare professionals and the community-at-large of northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia.