

For Immediate Release

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**Community Group Announces Economic Development Online Survey
for Cumberland County Residents**

Today, the Steering Committee for the Pathways to Possibilities Project announced the release of an online survey targeted to Cumberland County residents interested in economic development and job creation. The survey will be available through July 13th at www.pathwaystopossibilities.org.

“As Cumberland County braces for change on a variety of fronts, strategic planning will create a roadmap for economic development and provide benchmarks for assessing where we are in the journey,” said Dr. Larry Keen, Chair of the Steering Committee. “We need the community’s help to properly position us for change and to identify the assets that give Cumberland County a competitive edge in the global economy.”

The Pathways to Possibilities Project will culminate in an economic development action plan that will help to position the communities in Cumberland County for impacts from BRAC and other social, economic and demographic trends. This project will balance short-term and long-term objectives and will emphasize implementation - not just goal setting and preparing a plan.

Over the past several weeks, a team of faculty and staff from the University of North Carolina School of Government, Fayetteville State University School of Business and Economics, Fayetteville Technical Community College, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, The Kenan Institute for Private Enterprise, and Regional Technology Strategies Inc., have been meeting with individuals from across Cumberland County to get their input. The project team has met with citizens individually, in small focus groups and in town hall style events.

A community-wide economic summit will be held in September 2008 to detail the outcomes of the research and the economic development plan.

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