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## Catawba County Economic Development Corporation

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Established in 1891, Lenoir-Rhyne is a private, coeducational university located in Hickory, N.C. It is affiliated with the N.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is open to students from all religious backgrounds. Undergraduate degrees include Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Music Education in more than 60 majors and concentrations. Graduate degrees are offered in education, business administration, counselor education and occupational therapy.

The university enrolls approximately 1,500 students. Of those, 30 percent come from schools outside of North Carolina, 15 percent are minority students and more than 30 percent are first-generation college students. More than 80 percent of L-R students live on campus, where students are guaranteed housing and everyone is allowed to have a car. In 2005, the incoming class of 322 freshmen came from 23 states and five countries. They had an average (weighted) GPA of 3.55 and 1032 on the SAT or a 22 on the ACT.

These students enjoy the benefits of a world-class faculty, including Fulbright winners, award-winning researchers and renowned authors. These professors teach 100 percent of classes. Seventy-three percent of faculty hold terminal degrees or PhDs. Lenoir-Rhyne is committed to educating its students on a personal level and has a student-to-faculty ratio of 11:1.

Lenoir-Rhyne maintains strong ties with the business community through its Business Council. This group was established in 1983 to promote a better understanding of the university and its programs within the business community, to provide unique learning opportunities for students and businesses, and to support the university's giving programs. Lenoir-Rhyne's Broyhill Leadership Institute, established in 1979, provides leadership education for an invited group of Lenoir-Rhyne sophomores and also brings nationally known speakers to the community.

L-R's recently established Thomas W. Reese Institute for Conservation of Natural Resources promotes leadership for service through a program that emphasizes regional environmental issues, economic development, and the conservation and use of natural resources. The work of the Reese Institute builds on the integration of the liberal arts and sciences in learning, service and scholarship.

Lenoir-Rhyne is a site for the N.C. TEACH program, which provides assistance to mid-career men and women seeking to enter the teaching profession. L-R also offers an Evening College that appeals to working professionals. Lenoir-Rhyne has a 50-year tradition of preparing students for careers in deaf education and a strong support system for deaf and hearing-impaired students.

L-R offers a variety of cultural and athletic events. These include the Visiting Writers Series, which has featured acclaimed authors such as Alice Walker, Shelby Foote and Seamus Heaney. The university's Friends of Music program brings nationally known performers to Hickory and also showcases student and local talent. The Lenoir-Rhyne Playmakers present student performances on campus and in area schools. Lenoir-Rhyne's 13 intercollegiate teams, nicknamed the Bears, compete in the South Atlantic Conference (NCAA Division II).

Lenoir-Rhyne is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

More information about Lenoir-Rhyne University is available on the Internet at [www.lr.edu](http://www.lr.edu).