

# ASU to expand degree offerings for area counties at the Appalachian State University Center at Hickory

By [Sarah Newell Williamson](#) | Hickory Daily Record

The Hickory Metro Higher Education Center is getting a new name: the Appalachian State University Center at Hickory.

Appalachian State University, Catawba Valley Community College, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and Western Piedmont Community College formed a partnership Tuesday, known as the Appalachian State University Greater Hickory Partnership. It's designed to help ASU expand its degree offerings in Catawba, Caldwell and Burke counties.

The N.C. Center for Engineering Technologies will also be part of the partnership.

The Hickory Metro Higher Education Center will serve as the hub, housing the administration of ASU's programming at the four facilities.

HMHEC's director, Jane Everson, will serve as the director of the new partnership. Everson will be responsible for organizing program assessment efforts, recruitment, promotion and student support services and will be a liaison with the community colleges.

"This is designed to market and unify ASU programs more efficiently and effectively," Everson said.

Everson said the change goes into effect immediately for marketing purposes, but the center will officially be renamed June 30.

And despite its new name, Everson said all of the colleges and universities currently at HMHEC will continue to offer their programs.

"It has a different name, but we'll still have the same services and the same programs," Everson said, although she added that ASU has expansion plans. "We have a five-year plan, with some expansion."

According to Stan Aeschleman, provost at ASU, the partnership is designed to unify the university's offerings in the area.

"This action formalizes Appalachian's commitment to the region by agreeing to locate degree and non-degree credit programs and administrative staffing at these locations, and to reimburse each community college for classroom and office space used in accordance with current practices approved by the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System," he said.