

## Explanation

### Funding for Southern High School—BETC

The Durham Soil and Water staff received a grant from the National Institute for Agriculture (NIFA) for a Bionomic Educational Training Center (BETC, pronounced “Betsy”) on the Southern High School campus. BETC will provide funding, work experience and practical math and science lessons for Southern High School students. BETC has two parts:

- **School-based Agribusiness**

In the agribusiness, students grow and sell native plants for rain gardens, bio-retention areas and riparian buffers that reduce polluted runoff into Durham waterways. The agribusiness was designed for special-needs students identified for the Occupational Course of Study (OCS). The students grow native North Carolina plants for rain gardens and various culinary herbs. They built small cold frames and installed an automated irrigation system. They learned how to engineer a rain garden, how rain gardens remove urban contaminants and are, very important for sustaining our community and environment. This program allows students in the OCS department to obtain valuable hours of experience in order for them to pursue careers in horticulture and to develop Green Industry entrepreneurial skills. The program involved 25 students who participated in 250 instructional hours related to the project and the students earned 4,900 hours of work hour credit and produced an income of \$1,360 to date for the OCS Department.

The Biggest most profound change, however, has been the change in the students. They see that they are doing something that really matters. What they are learning will influence the rest of their lives.

- **Experiment Station**

The Experiment station is a lab with a series of experiments that is observed by all students enrolled in AP Environmental Science and Biology throughout the school year. The lab focuses on water quality concerns and conservation so that students will develop better research techniques, data collection and analysis which are very important for students who will pursue science careers and degrees from institutions of higher learning. The effects of the different land management practices on soil and water quality are the focus of the experiments, especially the complex and delicate relationship between water quality and stormwater management, nutrient management, energy and sustainability and ecological diversity.

## Vision Statement

To address all natural resources on every acre in Durham County in a way that will benefit the environment, wildlife, its people, and the natural resources themselves, plus produce an environmentally conscious group of citizens who will set a trend of conserving, enhancing and promoting our natural resource base.

## Mission Statement

To conserve, enhance, promote the natural resources of Durham County by providing technical assistance, environmental education information, and economic incentives to County citizens and by exhibiting a diversified program to meet its changing needs.

## Board of Supervisors

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## Staff Members

Eddie Culberson	Director
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Mike Dupree	Agricultural Development/ Watershed Conservationist
Matthew Kinane	District Conservationist (USDA/NRCS)
Steve Bennett	Regional Coordinator (NCAGR)
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# Bionomic Education Training Centers

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# Agribusiness

## Plant Production & Propagation



Environmental Firm  
buying plants



## Rain Garden Installation



## Impervious Removal & Riparian Buffer Installation



Before



After

## BETC Classroom



# Experiment Station

## Environmental Monitoring

