Program Overview
Established in 2006, the TFCE was enabled by a generous gift from The Thomas Family Foundation, founded by James and Sally Thomas. The Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship (TFCE) management recognizes the correlation between economic development and entrepreneurship and therefore is committed to entrepreneurship education and to entrepreneurial development. Its ambition is to stimulate entrepreneurial thinking amongst the UNCP student body as well as assist and support entrepreneurs and new ventures in the Southeastern North Carolina Region. As a consequence, the mission of the TFCE is focused on education, research, planning, and community engagement.

Organization
TFCE consultants reach out and support the community by providing one-on-one consulting and evaluation services for local entrepreneurs while assisting students in developing entrepreneurial competencies and knowledge. The result is to extend entrepreneurship education outside the classroom by allowing students to work with local entrepreneurs on critical business challenges. Experiential learning is a great asset to the entrepreneurship students. At the same time, local businesses benefit from the knowledge and advice provided.

Staff of the Thomas Family Center include: Dr. Carmen Calabrese, Executive Director of the Center; Dr. Michael Menefee, Thomas Family Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship; and Phyllis Queen, Business Consultant. There is also a 15 member Advisory Board.

Engagement
The Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship (TFCE) management team serves as a valuable resource for the Southeastern North Carolina Region. It offers confidential, individualized consulting and evaluation services for entrepreneurs that are looking to start a small business or new venture, or take their existing business to the next level. Services are provided free of charge. There are many opportunities for economic development in the region and our community is yearning for entrepreneurs to dive in and embark on new business ventures. TFCE consultants have partnered with other economic development organizations in the region to maximize the resources for entrepreneurs.
**Education**

**Track in Entrepreneurship:** The School of Business offers students the opportunity to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a track in Entrepreneurship.

**Certificate in Entrepreneurship:** UNCP’s Certificate in Entrepreneurship gives students the basic leadership and management skills to succeed in an innovative workplace from a start-up venture to a large corporation.

Started in the fall of 2008, Entrepreneurship Classes leading to a Certificate in Entrepreneurship is offered to all UNCP students in good academic standing. The Certificate Program consists of three entrepreneurship courses and two courses from the major field of study. The Certificate will be awarded in conjunction with graduation.

**Minor in Entrepreneurship:** Non-business majors in good standing at UNCP can improve their leadership and business skills to succeed in tomorrow’s workplace by taking the Minor in Entrepreneurship.

The Minor Program consists of three courses in entrepreneurship that focuses on innovation and starting a business, sustaining a business and doing strategic planning for a business. These three courses are supplemented by one course in small business finance, one course in small business marketing and one course in small business law.

**Research**

The Thomas Family Center in the last five years has produced forty publications in entrepreneurship and related fields including three books, one book chapter, twelve journal articles, twenty-one proceedings, and three position papers. The Thomas Family Center has been awarded a Planning Grant in 2010 and a Programs Grant in 2011 from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance and the Lemelson Foundation. Dr. Menefee has received outstanding paper awards from the Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Southern Industrial Relations and Human Resources Association and has been recognized by the Kettering Foundation for his work in public policy research. He has also served for three years as one of the judges for the National Idea to Product (I2P) Competition.

**Contact Information**

The Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
PO Box 1510
Pembroke, NC 28372-1510
Dr. Michael Menefee
(910) 775-4210
Email: michael.menefee@uncp.edu
Web: www.uncp.edu/tfce