“Project HEART has proven to be one of the most effective intervention strategies that I’ve seen in helping to address the educational needs of the school population in eastern North Carolina. At the same time, it has provided our students in higher education with the opportunity to serve their communities through the acquisition of new skills and personal resources to support themselves while they complete their degrees. There are few ‘win-wins’ as powerful as this program!”

—Dr. Marilyn A. Sheerer, Dean of the College of Education

Visit Project HEART’s Web site at www.coe.ecu.edu/projectheart for more information.
What Is Project HEART?
Project HEART, an ECU partnership with AmeriCorps, the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, community colleges, Boys & Girls Clubs, a community life center, and schools and systems in eastern North Carolina, gives college students the opportunity to work one on one with at-risk elementary, middle, and high school students. The project, located in the ECU College of Education, helps students improve academically and change negative behaviors into positive results. The project’s long-term goals are to reduce school failure, school suspensions, and juvenile delinquency. Students targeted for the program are those who score below the state standards on end-of-grade or end-of-course tests, or demonstrate a need for special attention in order to succeed beyond the classroom.

Full-time college students who are Project HEART members spend approximately twenty hours each week for twelve consecutive months interacting with ten students at a school, Boys & Girls Club, or an after-school program. Tutors who serve nine hundred hours earn a living allowance of $5,398, and, upon the completion of their service hours, receive a $2,363 educational award. The award can be used to help finance future education or pay back current student loans.

Project HEART members in their senior year of high school tutor ninth-grade students with, in their school approximately ten hours per week for one academic year. At the completion of three hundred hours of service, high school members receive a $1,000 educational award for future college or vocational school.

By working with the tutors, students achieve a renewed focus on academic success and a boost to their self-esteem. At the same time, the tutors develop valuable leadership skills and have the chance to make a real difference in local communities.

Participating Partners
East Carolina University, AmeriCorps, and the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service are proud to be partners with:

- Barton College
- Beaufort Community College
- Beaufort County Schools
- Building Hope Community Life Center
- Clinton City Schools
- Craven County Schools
- Edgecombe and Nash Counties Boys & Girls Clubs
- Edgecombe Community College
- Martin County Schools
- Nash-Rocky Mount Schools
- Pitt Community College
- Pitt County Boys & Girls Clubs
- Pitt County Schools
- Sampson Community College
- Summerville Academy
- Wilson County Schools