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Local Resident and CEO, David Casper, Graduates from Leadership Development Program

RALEIGH, NC— David Casper, the CEO of Union Diversified Industries and resident of Union County, NC, recently graduated from the NC Rural Center's Homegrown Leaders program, a three-day regional leadership and economic development program that develops and supports highly motivated leaders committed to regional collaboration.

David said, "I appreciate the opportunity to participate in a structured training designed to help rural areas around North Carolina. The faculty and staff of NC Rural Center were educational, energetic, and kind." He continued, "I look forward to continuing my journey of making an impact in my hometown."

The training held in Asheboro from July 18-20 attracted existing and emerging leaders from a 15-county region including Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Gaston, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties.

Graduation certificates were presented to the program's 35 participants upon completion of the training.

"Leadership development is at the core of the Rural Center's work, and now more than ever it is important that our leaders are equipped with the skills and tools to foster growth and innovation," said Rural Center President Patrick Woodie. "We're excited to see the impact our Homegrown Leaders graduates will have in their communities and regions to create a thriving future for generations of residents."

Class participants included economic development and health professionals, educators, and civic and nonprofit leaders.

For more information about Homegrown Leaders, visit <https://www.ncruralcenter.org/leadership/>.

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About the NC Rural Center

The NC Rural Center has worked since 1987 to develop, promote, and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. The Rural Center serves the state's 78 rural counties with a special focus on people with low-to-moderate incomes and communities with limited resources. To learn more about how the NC Rural Center is developing and supporting rural leaders across the state, visit ncruralcenter.org.