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For additional information, contact Durham Tech Communications and Social Media Coordinator Nathan Hardin at 919-536-7200, ext. 5206, or hardinn@durhamtech.edu.

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DURHAM TECH TO OFFER STEM BOOT CAMP WITH SUPPORT FROM MERCK FOUNDATION

(Durham, NC) – Durham Technical Community College has recently been awarded a grant of $22,500 from the Merck Foundation, through its Neighbor of Choice program, to support a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) “boot camp.” The camp will focus on chemistry, math, and technical writing skills designed to increase the number of students capable of completing college-level coursework, particularly for at-risk students struggling with chemistry.

Learning modules will concentrate on study skills, chemistry problems, and mathematical calculations, as well as focused topics such as chemical bonding, balancing equations, and acid/base concepts. Students will be introduced to a lab setting where they will become familiar with fundamental experiments and safety practices. The coursework will be enhanced by an interactive field trip to Merck & Co., Inc.’s plant in northern Durham County, and students can earn book scholarships upon successful completion of the Boot Camp.

“The support of the Merck Foundation enables us to strengthen the STEM education pipeline and to expand career opportunities for women and minorities in our community,” said Dr. Bill Ingram, president of Durham Tech. “This grant will provide academic support for participants and encourage them to pursue STEM-related pathways leading to career opportunities.”

“A good education is important to a successful career,” said Merck’s Durham Site Leader John Howell. “That’s why we are committed to investing our time, expertise, and resources to help develop and maintain vibrant, sustainable, and local communities.”

The Merck Foundation is a United States-based private charitable foundation established in 1957 by Merck, & Co., Inc., one of the world’s leading research-driven healthcare companies. It is funded entirely by Merck and is the company’s chief source of funding support for qualified non-profit charitable organizations.

Since its inception, the Merck Foundation has contributed more than $829 million to support initiatives that address important societal needs in a manner consistent with the company’s overall mission to help the world be well. To learn more about Merck’s corporate responsibility framework and initiatives, visit: www.merckresponsibility.com.
Merck’s vaccine plant in Treyburn Corporate Park in Durham County, also known as the Maurice R. Hilleman Center for Vaccine Manufacturing, produces vaccines for common childhood illnesses such as chicken pox, measles, mumps, and rubella. The facility produces more than two-thirds of Merck’s annual live virus vaccine stock, which amounts to more than 25 million doses per year. Merck also has sites in Wilson and Charlotte, NC.