

**LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IS AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TO  
OPEN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM FOR SELMA STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY**

**SELMA, NC-The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Village Community Learning Center, Inc., located in Selma, NC** is among several organizations, including school systems, charter schools, non-profit organizations, and for-profit agencies throughout the state to be awarded a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant for the 2018-2019 school year. The non-profit organization was awarded \$318,103 from the NC Department of Public Instruction, according to Sherry Moore, the Founder and Executive Director of The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Village Community Learning Center. The grant award is for one year and is renewable for up to three years.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century community learning center grant is the only federal program that funds before, after school, and summer programs for K-12 students. And the first 21<sup>st</sup> century community learning center grant ever received attained in Selma. The grant provides funding for academic support, enrichment activities, technology, tutorial services, parent support programs, and a broad array of positive youth development programs during out of school time. This grant is specifically targeted to work with middle school students in grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> in the Selma community. The after-school component of the program will operate from Monday-Friday from 3:30 pm- 6:30 pm.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Village also known in the community as “The Village” was founded in 2011 by Sherry Moore and Hugh Sanders, both long-time friends, residents of Selma and Smithfield and alumni to Smithfield-Selma Senior High. Their goal was to address the lack of community-based programs targeted to support older school aged youth. The organization has sponsored several community events and programs throughout its opening but has not received any substantial funding to implement a fully operational community learning center and afterschool

program within the community. The previous location at 205 A South Pollock Street in Selma was a small 3 room space, graciously donated by former Mayor Charles Hester. The organization, along with the assistance of several other community organizations, did smaller scale activities, community service projects, and other support programs with students and families during after school hours and weekends. But the organization did not have the funding or adequate space for larger and ongoing programs and services. With the grant and the new location at 200 South Pollock Street, (directly across the street from the previous Village), the new facility offers more space to work with students and parents in both large and small group settings.

Hugh Sanders is a native a Smithfield, NC and attended public school in Smithfield, NC, and is a 1983 graduate of SSS. He also earned his associate degree from Fayetteville State in Mortuary Science and is the owner of Sander Funeral Home in Smithfield, NC. Sherry Moore is a native of Selma NC and a 1985 graduate of SSS. She has been the school counselor at Selma Middle School for 16 years and 23 years as a counselor with JCPS. She holds a bachelor degrees from UNC and master degrees in Counseling and School Administration from NCCU and NC State. She is also a national board-certified school counselor.

Ms. Moore and Mr. Sanders both believe that it does take a village to raise a child; but they also believe that the village should be equipped with adequate resources, viable businesses, financial resources, and genuine investments in supporting youth. We believe that the responsibility to support children and their educational aspirations falls on all the adults within the community. The community learning center will also offer a variety of support programs with children, parents, and families, and community members throughout the week and on Saturdays. The goal of this program is to meet the needs of children and families by making them feel inclusive within their own communities. Both believe that this program will be a place within the community for all those who genuinely want work together to meet the needs of the children can partner together to do so. We are excited and intend for The Village to be a

positive force within the Smithfield-Selma community. And we definitely believe that The Village will be a turning point to positively improve student achievement, parent and community involvement within our local communities of Selma and Smithfield.

An open house will be held on January 3, 2019 from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm for new students, parents, and community members to walk through the facility. Newly enrolled students will begin when school starts back on January 7, 2019. Any students still interested in enrolling can obtain enrollment application from their child's teacher at Selma Middle School. For more information about the program, you can visit the website at [www.TheVillageCLC.org](http://www.TheVillageCLC.org).