

MEDIA ADVISORY

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NC State's New Chancellor Continues Statewide Tour in New Bern, Cherry Point

The new chancellor of North Carolina State University, Dr. James L. Oblinger, will visit New Bern and the Cherry Point Naval Air Depot (NADEP) on Thursday to continue a series of visits across the state, meeting with citizens and community leaders and reaffirming NC State's commitment to responding to the needs of North Carolinians.

Oblinger will meet with local business leaders during an 11:30 a.m. luncheon at Nikola's Restaurant, **located at 101 Howell Road in New Bern**, and tour the RV Humphries research vessel, which is docked nearby, at 12:30 p.m. The 48-foot trawler aids the research and extension efforts of a number of NC State groups, including research on the fish-killing pathogen *Pfiesteria* that is conducted by Dr. JoAnn Burkholder through NC State's Center for Applied Aquatic Ecology.

Later in the day, Oblinger will tour the Naval Air Depot, considered the Navy's center of excellence for vertical lift aircraft, from 2-3:30 p.m. NC State is involved with research that aids the military and sponsors distance education programs for military personal. **Media coverage of the events is invited.**

Oblinger will conclude the day with an alumni reception in New Bern.

The tour included stops in Fayetteville and Wilson on Wednesday. The chancellor will visit Morehead City and Havelock High School on Friday. Future visits are planned for other regions of the state during the spring.

Oblinger became NC State's 13th chancellor on Jan. 1 after serving in various capacities at the university for nearly 20 years. Prior to being named chancellor, he was NC State's provost and executive vice chancellor, where he was responsible for advancing the university's academic mission and setting the university's academic agenda. Before being named provost in May 2003, Oblinger served as dean and executive director for agricultural programs of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at NC State from 1997 to 2003. He assumed those duties after serving as associate dean and director of academic programs for CALs from 1986 to 1997. He is also a tenured professor in the Department of Food Science.

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During the tour, the chancellor will visit with alumni, community groups, high school students, local government leaders, civic organizations and business groups. Oblinger will also tour businesses, farms and industries that have benefited from research and outreach programs at NC State. The tour across the state continues an NC State tradition of being responsive to the people of North Carolina by listening to their needs and sharing the NC State story.

“NC State is a community shaped by the people of North Carolina,” Oblinger said. “Our faculty, staff and students are united by a passion for knowledge and innovation, and for applying that knowledge in relevant, responsive ways that benefit our state and society. It’s an attitude and practice I think of as ‘innovation in action.’”

Oblinger added that “innovation in action” begins with listening to the needs of North Carolinians, then putting acquired knowledge to work in real-world ways that improve the state’s education, economy and quality of life.