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News Release

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For immediate release

### **SCC Instructor Collaborates on Cutting-Edge Study**

John Robards, instructor for Forest Management Technology at Southeastern Community College, is conducting a study in collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF) Center for Advanced Forestry Systems at Bladen Lakes State Forest and the Reynolds Research Center in the Virginia Piedmont.

"I am excited about the scope of work and the significance that it could have for Southeastern Community College," Robards explained. "The research design is cutting edge. The replication for comparison between the Virginia Piedmont and the North Carolina Coastal Plain is the first of its kind and includes geostatistical analysis and a visualization component based on my interests."

"We are proud of John and his contributions as a co-principal investigator on a project of this magnitude," said Dr. Kathy Matlock, president of Southeastern Community College.

Two students in the college's Forest Management Technology program will be working on the research this summer through another NSF grant.

"Opportunities such as these provide real-world experiences that make students more marketable in today's tough job market," said Al Phillips, dean of Business and Technology.

As a result of and in conjunction with this project, Robards will complete a doctorate dissertation. "I look forward to continuing a long-term relationship with these experts," Robards said.

For more information about Forest Management Technology, contact John Robards at 642-7141, ext. 232 or at [jrobards@scnc.edu](mailto:jrobards@scnc.edu).