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# Provalus announces intent to open new facility in Columbus County

WHITEVILLE, N.C. – Provalus, a company that provides IT services, has announced plans to open an operations center in Columbus County.

“It’s an exciting day to get to celebrate a new company coming to the North Carolina’s Southeast region,” said Steve Yost, president of North Carolina’s Southeast. “I applaud Executive Director of the Columbus County EDC Dr. Gary Lanier, Columbus County and the City of Whiteville for their work in landing Provalus as a major new company presence. We’re looking forward to the day they can open the doors to their new location and welcome in all its employees.”

Provalus plans to hire 92 employees to work at its new location in downtown Whiteville. The company estimates it will invest \$500,000 into the community, strengthening Columbus County’s and the region’s economy. At the new location, Provalus will offer services like cybersecurity, data analytics, business optimization and more.

“We have a great temporary space to allow Provalus to get up and running due to the support of the Golden LEAF Foundation,” said Dr. Lanier. “None of this could have happened without the support of Governor Cooper’s office, Secretary Sanders and the Department of Commerce staff, and Jennifer Holcomb of the Economic Development Partnership of NC. This is certainly a big win for Columbus County!”

“We are all thankful for the help of Representative Jones in making this project possible,” said Columbus County manager Eddie Madden. “His work in the Legislature to obtain the funding needed to establish the Columbus County Entrepreneurship Center, which can now provide outstanding temporary start-up space for a company like Provalus, was critical to our success in landing this transformative project.”

North Carolina’s Southeast played a key role in recruiting Provalus as part of its marketing program. Through a lengthy process, NC’s Southeast team helped site selectors narrow down their choices within the southeastern region and determine that a building in downtown Whiteville would be the ideal location for Provalus to conduct its operations.

Dr. Lanier says his team also received tremendous support from Southeastern Community College. The SCC team put together a job fair to help Provalus, which Lanier says was an astounding success to identify potential employees for the company.

“The major benefactors of this project, of course, are our citizens,” said Dr. Lanier. “Provalus does a great job in training their employees and encourages those seeking career advancement. This is certainly a big win for Columbus County!”

*A public-private partnership headquartered in Elizabethtown, N.C., North Carolina's Southeast's mission is to provide strong economic development leadership in southeastern North Carolina through innovative marketing and collaborative regional initiatives that will support the creation of new jobs, generate capital investment and secure new business locations. Member counties include Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Hoke, Jones, Lenoir, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland and Wayne. For additional information, visit [www.ncse.org](http://www.ncse.org)*