

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Proclamation*

**BULLS LIFE SCIENCES ACADEMY DAY | 2026**

- WHEREAS,** key leaders identified a gap in high-wage, high-growth careers for underserved populations in Durham County and a need among employers in the Life Sciences industry for a talent pipeline; and
- WHEREAS,** Made in Durham was founded as a public-private partnership with a mission to create accessible pathways for upward economic mobility and community prosperity for the existing education-to-career system; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2021, Made in Durham, along with core partners, Durham County, Durham Technical Community College and NCBiotech, launched the BULLS Life Sciences Academy to fulfill this crucial mission; and
- WHEREAS,** through the support of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, students are eligible to receive a \$10,000 life stipend to cover living expenses while they complete the program, paving the pathway for residents to attain and build careers in the Life Sciences industry; and
- WHEREAS,** Made in Durham has established vital partnerships with dozens of community-based organizations to build organizational capacity, as well as to support community awareness of Life Sciences and the recruitment of BULLS Academy candidates; and
- WHEREAS,** the success of the program is reflected in the 20 companies, including global leaders such as Merck, Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Biogen, that have employed 70 BULLS Academy graduates, generating \$2.8 million in new wages, as the 13th cohort enters the program and the 14th is being recruited.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Dr. Mike Lee, Chair and on behalf of the Durham Board of County Commissioners, do hereby recognize

**“BULLS LIFE SCIENCES ACADEMY DAY”**

in Durham County.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

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Dr. Mike Lee, Chair  
Durham Board of County Commissioners

