



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CONTACT:

Laura Burrows, Two B Public Relations  
(336) 575-6757, [laura@twobpr.com](mailto:laura@twobpr.com)

Sherrill Beaman, Director of Quality Programs  
Vidant Edgecombe Hospital  
(252) 641-7764, [sbeaman@vidanthealth.com](mailto:sbeaman@vidanthealth.com)

### **North Carolina Stroke Association Awards Grant to Vidant Edgecombe Hospital for Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification**

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (Mar. 13, 2018) — The North Carolina Stroke Association (NCSA) has awarded **Vidant Edgecombe Hospital in Tarboro, N.C.** a \$50,000 grant as part of its *Time is Brain, Time for Change* initiative.

The goal of the NCSA is to ensure that every North Carolinian has access to timely, state-of-the-art stroke care no matter where they happen to be, across the state. With this grant, Vidant Edgecombe Hospital will fund programs required for it to become certified as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center certification by the [Joint Commission](#).

"We are so pleased to provide this funding to Vidant Edgecombe Hospital," said NCSA executive director Beth Parks. "It is very important to support hospitals who serve the eastern regions of our state, which record some of the highest stroke death rates in the country yet have significant gaps in access to certified stroke care."

Edgecombe County is part of the region considered the "buckle" of the stroke belt with some of the highest stroke mortality rates, not just in North Carolina, but across the United States. Currently, only seven of the 43 hospitals in North Carolina certified as Acute Stroke Ready, Advanced Primary Stroke or Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Centers are located in these eastern regions.

"Vidant Health's mission is to improve the health and well-being of eastern North Carolina. This NCSA grant supports our mission and our commitment to provide high-quality stroke care throughout the region and as close to home as possible for those we serve," said Barry Bunn, MD, Chief of Staff, Emergency Dept. and Stroke Medical Director, Vidant Edgecombe Hospital.

Vidant Edgecombe is the third area hospital to receive a grant from NCSA's *Time is Brain, Time for Change* initiative. In the fall of 2017, the NC Stroke Association announced grants to Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton, N.C., and Vidant Roanoke-Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie, N.C.

"We are very grateful to the North Carolina Stroke Association for this important grant as we pursue Advanced Primary Stroke Center certification," said Wick Baker, President, Vidant Edgecombe Hospital. "The certification process will advance stroke-related care here at Vidant Edgecombe, enhance community outreach so individuals can more quickly identify strokes when they occur, and work toward our ultimate goal of stroke prevention through healthier living and risk identification."

Vidant Edgecombe Hospital will use the grant to expand its community education, awareness and stroke screening programs, and underwrite additional education and training for staff and EMS providers as required for certification.

**About the N.C. Stroke Association**

*The North Carolina Stroke Association is a 501 (c) 3 organization founded in 1998 by a group of physicians and lay people who saw the need to address the state's increasing prevalence of stroke and its attendant disabilities. With operational seed money from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, NCSA began to fulfill its mission to reduce the **incidence** and **impact** of stroke in North Carolina through collaborations to facilitate **screening, education, outcome assessments and advocacy**. For more information, visit [www.ncstroke.org](http://www.ncstroke.org).*



**About Vidant Edgecombe Hospital**

*Vidant Edgecombe Hospital is located in Tarboro, North Carolina and serves residents of Tarboro, Edgecombe County and surrounding communities. It offers special programs including comprehensive rehabilitation services, cancer care, a birthing center, outpatient clinics and more. For more information, visit <https://www.vidanthealth.com/Locations/Hospitals/Vidant-Edgecombe-Hospital>*

