



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Yancey County Economic Development Commission Announces Grant Award through Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program To Steven Wright, Owner of “Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes & Fries”**

The Yancey Economic Development Commission is pleased to announce a grant award made through the Burnsville Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program.

“I’m very pleased to announce a Yancey EDC Downtown Entrepreneurship Assistance Program grant was awarded to Steven Wright, the owner and operator of “Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes & Fries”, a new casual restaurant operating in the Sav-Mor Shopping Center on Reservoir Road in Burnsville” said EDC Director Jamie McMahan.

Wright, a Burnsville native, opened the Burnsville location in July 2019, the newest of over 130 open-grill diners belonging to the Hwy 55 family of restaurants, a local North Carolina franchise emphasizing fresh food, quick service, and friendly hospitality.

The Burnsville Downtown Entrepreneur Assistance Program (DEAP) is an incentive grant program with the goal of creating new jobs, increasing revenue, and making downtown Burnsville an attractive option for business development. The purpose of this program is to support business recruitment by assisting new start-ups within the critical first six months of business.

Since its inception in fall of 2018 the Yancey EDC Downtown Entrepreneur Assistance Program has made three grant awards to Burnsville business owners, helping to spur economic investment in downtown Burnsville.

The DEAP program requires applicants submit a written business plan when applying for the grant and may, depending upon the applicant’s previous business experience, require attendance of business management and training courses at Mayland Community College through the Mayland Small Business Center, or other accredited

institution offering the required courses and will require recipients to create at least one new full time equivalent job. In addition to the grant award of \$2,500 the grant will also cover the cost of the recipient's first year of membership in the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce.

For more details on how to apply for the grant program contact Jamie McMahan, Executive Director of the Yancey County Economic Development Commission, at (828) 682-7722 or via email at [yanceyedc@gmail.com](mailto:yanceyedc@gmail.com). Application information may also be obtained at the Yancey County Chamber of Commerce or the Mayland Community College Small Business Center.

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