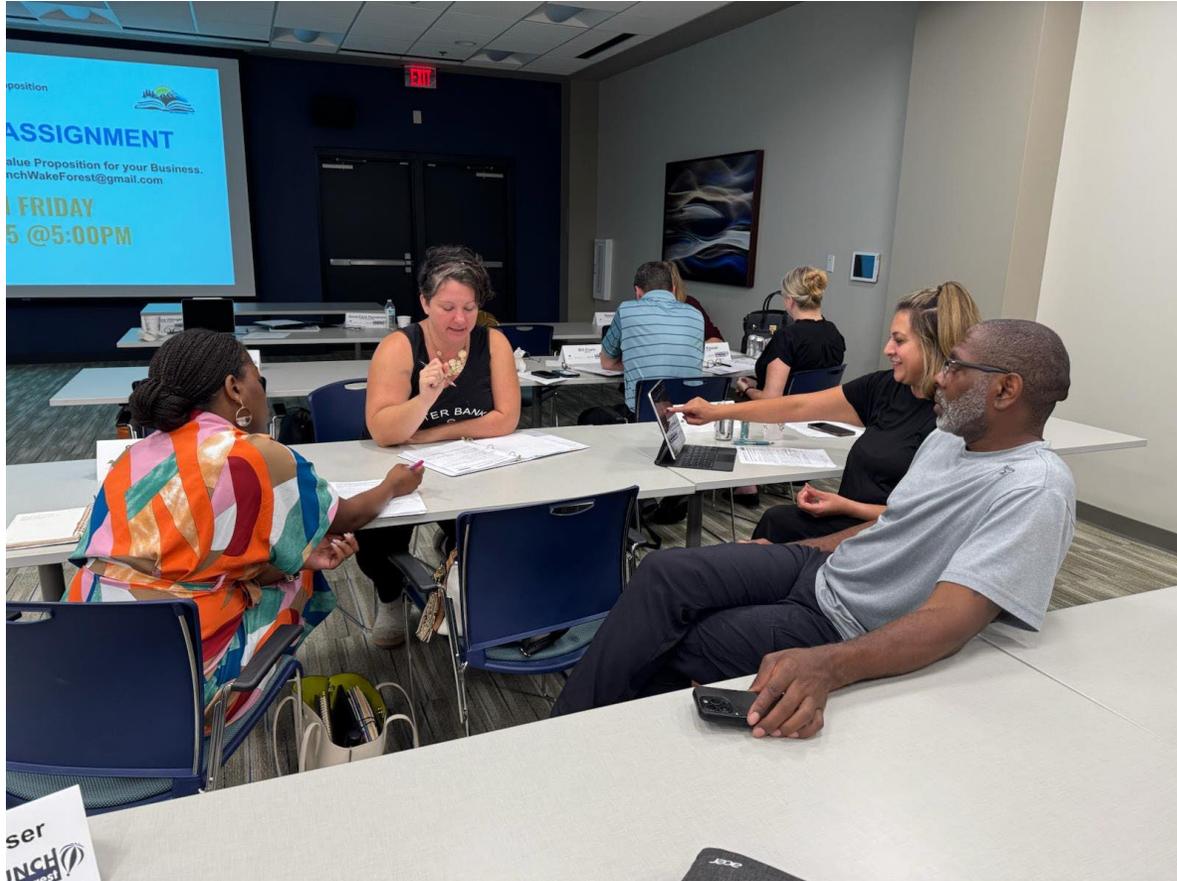




Training the Ecosystem



▶ Educational Economic Development

- ▶ SBC supported 1437 individuals at 112 events

▶ Historically Under-Resourced, Traditional Businesses

▶ Performance Areas:

- ▶ Training
- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Financial Readiness
- ▶ Pitch Competition

Launch Wake County by the Numbers

2025		
Program	Total	Projected Total
Apex	23	20
Cary	8	20
Garner	9	20
Knightdale	23	20
*Morrisville	15	20
Raleigh	16	20
*Zebulon	16	20
Fuquay Varina	12	20
Wendell	10	20
TOTAL	137	180

* Added municipalities in 2025

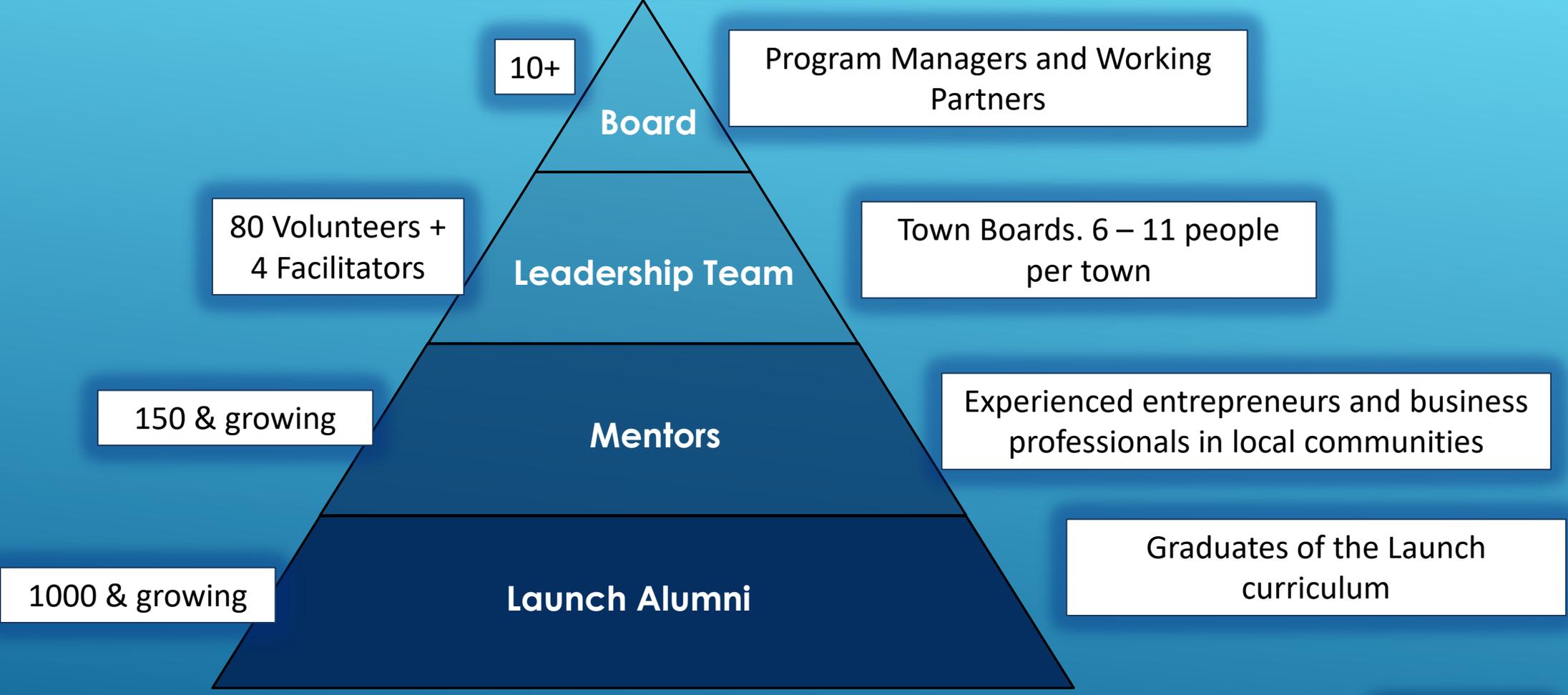


2025 ENROLLMENT : 132
PROGRAM TOTAL THROUGH SPR26: 1130

80%
Female

78%
Minority





BLUEPRINT TO SKYLINE PITCH COMPETITION



- ▶ \$50K awarded to 9 entrepreneurs in 3 categories
 - ▶ 7 winners were part of a Launch program
- ▶ 3-week pitch prep focused on presentations building on **COMPETENCE** and **CONFIDENCE**.
- ▶ 167 applied, 15 finalists presented
- ▶ Funds sponsored by Wells Fargo

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- ▶ We continue to focus on programming that will have the biggest impact on supporting small business growth
- ▶ Contractor's Academy hosted 8 attendees in 2025
- ▶ Provided more than 3000 hours of training to Launch participants
- ▶ Launch Alumni events: Business Expo on Wake Tech Southern Campus
- ▶ Launch Alumni businesses grew by more than 60% in 2025
- ▶ 15 students participated in the Entrepreneurship for Skilled Trades & Professionals
- ▶ We are updating the Launch curriculum for Fall 2026 to provide more in-depth new business owner training

Entrepreneurship changes communities



We believe that when people have access to **knowledge, mentorship, and opportunity**, they create businesses that:

- Create **local jobs**
- Drive **economic growth**
- Build **stronger communities**
- Expand **opportunity for everyone**

Our role is simple:

Help Wake County entrepreneurs turn **ideas** into **sustainable businesses**

STARTS WITH WHY!

Because when small businesses succeed,
Wake County succeeds



THANK YOU!