

Wake County Bureau of Forensic Services

BOC Public Safety Committee

Sam Pennica, Director

April 20, 2026



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March 2021

The Ferguson Group sent an email informing the Wake County Bureau of Forensic Services:

“...community project funding is back. Members of Congress can identify priority projects to receive direct federal aid. In talking with County management, the DNA lab is a great project to pursue funding.”

April 2021

US Congresswoman Deborah Ross and US Congressman David Price were requested to sponsor a request for federal aid to purchase DNA Laboratory Equipment.

Congresswoman Ross sponsored this request.

October 2021

Renovation of existing space within the Bureau facility began to create a DNA Laboratory.

The cost of design and construction was ~ \$375,000.

The cost was funded from court ordered laboratory fees.

May 2022

Construction of the DNA Laboratory space was completed.

July 2022

DNA Unit was staffed with three experienced DNA Analysts and a Forensic Manager.

October 2022

As result of Congresswoman Ross' sponsorship, the Bureau received \$500,000 in federal funds for purchase of DNA Laboratory equipment under the "Community Project Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program".

Purchase of DNA Laboratory equipment began.

November 2022

The Bureau received ~ \$325,000 to support the upstart of the DNA Laboratory from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission Grant Program.

The grant provided funding for:

- services to validate instrumentation and methods
- equipment
- supplies

December 2022

The DNA Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS+ DNA) was purchased with Governor's Crime Commission grant funds.

The cost was ~ \$46,000.

This software records DNA Laboratory work and creates laboratory reports.

May 2023

Wake County purchased STRMix Deconvolution Software.

Cost ~ \$105,000.

This software allows DNA Analysts to determine the DNA profile of each contributor, when mixtures of DNA are found on evidence.

July 2023

Validation of DNA Laboratory instrumentation / methods began.

Validation consumables / supplies purchased by Wake County.

Cost ~ \$50,000.

October 2023

Validation of the DNA Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS+ DNA) began.

August 2025

Validation of DNA instrumentation / methods was completed.

Validation services were paid for with GCC grant funds.

Validation consumables and supplies were purchased by Wake County.

Cost ~ \$230,000.

September 2025

Validation of the DNA Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS+ DNA) was completed by Bureau staff.

Wake County IS installed hardware for the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) in expectation of accreditation of the DNA Unit.

*Installation was accomplished by Wake County IS staff and in large part by the efforts of Lisa Jones, Wake County CISO.

October 2025

DNA Technical Procedures and DNA Training Procedures were completed and published by Bureau staff.

DNA Laboratory staff are completed proficiency / competency tests for accreditation.

February 2026

The DNA Laboratory was accredited to the ISO 17025 Standard on February 16, 2026, and the FBI Quality Assurance Standard on March 18, 2026.

The DNA Laboratory is currently being connected to FBI Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Connection and training is scheduled to be completed on May 22, 2026.

Accreditation and CODIS was purchased by Wake County.

Cost ~ \$115,000.

DNA Laboratory Final Cost Summary

Court Ordered Laboratory Fees ~ \$375,000

*design and construction

Grants ~ \$825,000

*Byrne and Governor's Crime Commission

Wake County ~ \$500,000

*excludes cost of 3 FTE's

Total ~ \$1,700,000







Crime Scene Science Accreditation

The Crime Scene Science Division was accredited to the ISO 17025 Standard on February 16, 2026.

The Bureau is the first North Carolina agency to have Laboratory and Crime Scene Science Services accredited.

This accreditation is distinguishing. Wake County now shares this accomplishment with other metropolitan areas in the country such as:

- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Scientific Services Bureau
- St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Crime Laboratory
- Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory
- Baltimore County Police Department Forensic Services Section

Questions?



*Lego Builder ~ Lenny Volk,
WCFS Business Systems Administrator*



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