In 2005, Governor Mike Easley launched the nation’s first Center for 21st Century Skills. The Center is focused on changing North Carolina’s education system to ensure that students leave school better prepared to succeed in the global economy.

The Center is a public-private partnership that works actively with business leaders, educators and policy makers to create new curricula, new assessments, and new ways of linking student work in the classroom to the workplace in the 21st century.

The Center is bringing together current innovative reform efforts as well as implementing new ones to develop meaningful assessments and curricula that reflect the knowledge necessary for success in the 21st century. The Center is also working to improve and expand professional development for educators that focuses on 21st century skills.

The business community in North Carolina plays a vital role in realizing the Center’s goals. Your input is necessary to articulate the skills and attributes needed for your employees. Your support is needed for funding and investments in schools to better prepare students for college, work and productive citizenship in the 21st century.

The success of The Center depends on the commitment of North Carolina’s business and education leaders to work together to prepare students who will create a strong economic future and quality way of life in communities across North Carolina.

The people of North Carolina have met the 21st century with optimism, with confidence and with ambition. They have called for improved education and a better economy, and are determined to lead the nation with innovation and with knowledge. We have realized the challenge of the global era and while others fear the changes, we embrace them — confident that the character and spirit of our people will prevail. The Center for 21st Century Skills will allow us to embrace the changes and succeed in the global economy.

Governor Mike Easley