

**For Immediate Release**

**July 14, 2025**

# SECU Foundation

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE®

**Contact:** Jama Campbell, Executive Director, [secufoundation@ncsecu.org](mailto:secufoundation@ncsecu.org)

## SECU Foundation Awards Western Youth Network \$1.5 Million Grant for New Resource Center

**BOONE, N.C.** – [SECU Foundation](#) has announced a \$1.5 million challenge grant for [Western Youth Network \(WYN\)](#) to assist with the construction of a new youth resource center to serve residents in the five-county High Country region of North Carolina. The addition will allow the non-profit to expand their continuum of care for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade and help create an ideal setting for academic, social, physical, and behavioral health services.

WYN has been serving youth in the region through prevention and intervention programs since its establishment in 1985. WYN is the only center for youth programs in Watauga County and provides intentional outreach to underserved children and families through mentorship, after school care, summer camps, and substance abuse prevention, with a focus on serving children overcoming trauma and adversity.

“Western Youth Network has been an integral part of the community, serving the young people of the High Country for 40 years,” said SECU Foundation Board Chair Chris Ayers. “We are pleased to support their important work by providing funds for an expansion that will enhance their ability to meet an ever-growing need for their services.”

“We are incredibly grateful to the SECU Foundation for their transformational grant in support of WYN's future youth center,” said Western Youth Network Executive Director Jennifer Warren. “This gift brings us closer to a new facility and all of the benefits that will provide for children and families in the NC High Country. Together, we are building brighter futures!”

### About SECU and SECU Foundation

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, and federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), SECU has been providing employees of the state of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for 88 years. SECU is the second largest credit union in the United States with \$55 billion in assets. It serves more than 2.8 million members through 275 branch offices, 1,100 ATMs, Member Services Support via phone, [www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org), and the SECU Mobile App. The SECU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization funded by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high-impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare, and human services. Since 2004, [SECU Foundation](#) has made a collective financial commitment of over \$300 million for initiatives to benefit North Carolinians statewide.



Receiving the check are WYN Executive Director Jennifer Warren (fifth from left) and WYN Board member Cindy Wallace (fifth from right), surrounded by SECU, SECU Foundation, and WYN staff.