



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

May 31, 2022

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Wake Forest University Grows in Charlotte

By Rick Handford

Patrick Baker introduced Dr. Charles L. Iacovou, the founding dean of the recently created School of Professional Studies at Wake

Forest University and vice provost of the school's Charlotte Programs. Additionally, he occupies the *F.M. Kirby Chair in Business Excellence* and is a professor of Management. Dr. Iacovou has published extensively on information technology management, project management, outsourcing, and organizational decision-making and communication.

During his talk, Dr. Iacovo revealed that he has only been living in Charlotte for a year, but he has been teaching here for more than 20 years, and Wake Forest has had an MBA program here for over 30 years and currently has more MBA students than the home campus. Charlotte is home to some 10,000 Wake Forest alumni, the largest concentration of Wake alums anywhere. This provides him with a solid base of connections as he starts up the School of Professional Studies, just one of the programs that are being developed as Wake expands its presence in Charlotte.

The Wake Forest School of Medicine in Charlotte will not only be generating MDs, but will also be engaged in clinical medical research at many levels, and will be working in partnership with Atrium on both fronts. In addition to the Medical School, they will be working in every aspect of healthcare, from public health to affordability issues to equity of delivery systems.

In addition to the schools of Business, the Medical School, and the School of Professional Studies, there will be curriculums around Technology and

Education. These schools will be located in the new Levine Center for Education, a 15-story building to be located in the Pearl Innovation District, which will be located at Baxter and McDowell streets in Midtown. Dr. Iacovou estimated that the expansion of Wake's footprint in Charlotte will create some 11,000 jobs and require \$1.5 billion.

He then opened the floor to questions, answers to which revealed that there are currently no plans for a Law School in Charlotte, although there may be some legal courses taught here, and that the Medical School may grow to the point where they graduate as many as 150 students per year, but only time will tell.

To get the full details, I would recommend that you watch the Zoom recording on the website. Our thanks to Dr. Iacovou for his most informative and entertaining presentation.

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/715720884>
The presentation begins at 10:00 minutes.