



NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Ashley White  
(252) 423 1813, [awhite@eastnc.wish.org](mailto:awhite@eastnc.wish.org)

## LOCAL WISH KID'S WISH TO CREATE A NEW EYE PATCH GRANTED

RALEIGH N.C.- Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina granted 17-year-old Jayden's wish to participate in a biomedical engineering and business bootcamp with the goal of creating a prototype of a new type of eye patch. To achieve this, Jayden and his family spent two days with the Lampe Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering at UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State as well as the UNC School of Medicine, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, UNC College of Arts and Sciences, and NC State College of Engineering.

Jayden was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 13, and his treatment process left him without the ability to close his left eye, which led him to this wish. Since current eye patches did not have the ability to keep his eye closed, Jayden decided he wanted to make his own.

While at UNC and NC State, Jayden met with numerous professors and students, including Dr. Devin Hubbard, Dr. Ted Zoller, and Dr. Suzanne Killian, who helped him create a prototype of his eye patch and gave him insight on the process of bringing his product to market.

Jayden left his wish with a working prototype of his eye patch, a 3D printer and materials, blue prints for his prototype, a knowledge of the two campuses and subsequent programs, and a network of people who want to help him achieve his goals.

"It was brought to fruition in a way I could have never imagined," said Jayden

### About Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina

Founded in 1986, Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina grants life changing wishes for children aged 2.5-18 battling critical illnesses. Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina is 100% local, with all funds and wish kids coming from the 49 counties east of the Orange/Alamance county line. Since its founding, the chapter has granted over 4,600 wishes, with a record breaking 212 being granted in FY 24, and a goal of 230 in FY 25. For more information about Make-A-Wish Eastern North Carolina, visit <https://wish.org/eastnc>.

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