

# YOUTH VOICE 2015

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Samuel Wrye



Iredell County, NC



Iredell County Commissioner's Meeting



Samuel Wrye entering the Iredell County Courthouse

# YOUTHVOICE 2015

I was recently asked to participate in North Carolina's 2015 YouthVoice, the 6th annual NCACC Youth Summit.

In doing so I have learned a lot on how our county's government works. County governments are focused on the fundamental building of healthy, safe, resilient and vibrant communities:

- Maintain public records
- Support and maintain public infrastructure, transportation and economic development assets
- Provide vital justice, law enforcement and public safety services
- Protect the public's health and well-being and
- Implement a broad array of federal, state and local programs.

I attended two County Commissioners meetings, and I also interviewed Commissioner Stephen Johnson and Deputy County Manager Beth Jones. Steve Johnson views the economy as a crucial part to the well-being of Iredell County, but he doesn't see taxes as the key to raising money.

I learned while interviewing Mrs. Jones that she and the County Manager divide the responsibilities of individual departments such as zoning, building inspections, etc.

The Deputy County Manager interacts with the County commissioners on a regular basis, but primarily contact with County Manager.

Sometimes she works with the Commissioners directly.

Mrs. Jones explained how the Annual Budget process works and gave me a tour of the Old Statesville Courthouse.

I have learned so much about our county's government through this program. I am looking forward to the YouthSummit in Greenville NC.

Thank you, Nancy Keith, the Iredell Cooperative extension director, and Kay Bridges, 4H & Youth development director, for giving me this opportunity.