



The Village of Bald Head Island

MEDIA RELEASE

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Hewett Earns ‘40 Under Forty Leadership Award’ from ECU

BALD HEAD ISLAND — The Village of Bald Head Island’s Zachary Hewett has been selected to receive a 40 Under Forty Leadership Award from East Carolina University this spring. ECU announced Hewett as one of its 2022 honorees earlier this month.

“Pursuing passion and leading positive change through leadership and service are hallmarks of the Pirate Nation and the 40 Under Forty Leadership Awards,” according to ECU’s Division of Student Affairs, who began presenting 40 Under Forty Leadership Awards in April 2015. The honor recognizes emerging leaders who received their start at ECU and those who have used their ECU experiences to make significant impacts in their respective professions, communities, and the world.

Hewett was hired as the Village’s Finance Director in July 2020. Hewett is a native of Brunswick County. Previously, he served as City Manager for the City of Randleman, North Carolina. He attended ECU both as an undergraduate and a graduate where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Economics, a Graduate Certificate in Management Information Systems, and a Master of Business Administration. He also has completed numerous continuing education courses at the University of North Carolina’s School of Government, including the Municipal and County Administration Course in 2017.

“What I enjoy the most about working in local government is that we, as public servants, have a direct impact on the communities that we serve and work in daily”, Hewett says. “To come into a community and work towards making positive changes, and to see those changes come to fruition to help improve the quality of life for current and future generations, of residents, is incredible.”

As Finance Director, Hewett provides oversight and direction in the functional areas of general accounting, payroll, purchasing operations, risk management, capital improvement, and budget administration, leading and supervising staff, and more. He is a member of numerous government leadership organizations such as the North Carolina Government Finance Officers Association and the North Carolina City and County Management Association, where he serves on the Collaboration

MEDIA RELEASE

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Page 2

with MPA Programs Committee as liaison to East Carolina University's Master of Public Administration program.

He says, "To me, good leadership is key to ensuring the success of anything or anybody. During my career, I have had the opportunity to work with and interact with many great leaders who provided me with knowledge and skills that have helped me to be successful in all that I do. My hope is that through my service in local government and professional organizations, I can pass along what I have learned to others and help them succeed, and in turn, inspire them to help others succeed, as well."

Hewett says he hopes to continue to grow as a leader in North Carolina Local Government and intends to apply for the Leading for Results - LGFCU Fellows program at the UNC School of Government. Village Manager Chris McCall, Assistant Village Manager Jae Kim, and Public Information Officer Carin Faulkner are all LGFCU Fellows program alumni.

Hewett and his fellow recipients were selected by the awards committee, which is comprised of ECU alumni, staff, and faculty. The class of 2022 will be celebrated during the 8th Annual Division of Student Affairs 40 Under Forty Leadership Awards Banquet on April 23, 2022.

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