

## A potential tool for closing the racial wealth gap



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**Date** 2022-09-01 12:36

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### [Could employee ownership help close the racial wealth gap? Yes — if more people knew about it](#)

**By Ely Portillo**

With a "silver tsunami" of business owner retirements looming and major generational transfers of wealth on the horizon, employee ownership of small businesses could be an attractive strategy for many firms — as well as beneficial for society.

That's what a group of researchers from UNC Charlotte and the North Carolina Employee Ownership Center found in a study of employee ownership in Mecklenburg County. But the study, conducted with the support of the Gambrell Faculty Fellows program, also found that many business owners and employees aren't aware of the possibility or think it would be too onerous to implement.



### [Is the Charlotte region a 'brain hub' like Raleigh-Durham?](#)

**By Aaron Houck**

By Aaron Hecker

The Charlotte region is a banking hub, an air travel hub, even a sports hub — but is it a "brain hub"? That's the most important question local policymakers will find themselves asking after reading Enrico Moretti's *The New Geography of Jobs*. Brain hubs enjoy disproportionate prosperity and opportunity, and the gap between them and other cities and regions will only widen. Raleigh-Durham is, according to his findings, a brain hub. But the Charlotte region...?



## [Podcast: How to make Charlotte a place where creatives can thrive](#)

### **Future Charlotte**

Let's be honest: When you think "Charlotte," the next words to pop into your head aren't "creative powerhouse," are they?

Tim Miner and Matt Olin, co-founders of Charlotte is Creative, joined the "Future Charlotte" podcast to tackle questions like "Is Charlotte creative?" (Yes), why some creatives feel like they have to leave to Charlotte to succeed, and why it matters that our creative community is healthy.



## [Register now: Exploring gentrification, displacement and what's behind these potent words](#)

### **By Ely Portillo**

If you've paid any attention to Charlotte's growth, development or politics for the past few years, you know that gentrification and displacement have been the biggest issues in the city. But what do we really mean with these terms? What's driving each of them? And what can we do about them? Join us on Sept. 22 for the first of this fall's online Schul Conversations, as we talk through what these terms mean, how we can be more precise with our language, and why it matters.

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