



2024 NCSDDAA & NCACCIA Joint Conference

March 21 & 22, 2024

**Forsyth Technical Community College
Robert Strickland Center**



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Dear NCACCIA and NCSDAA Members,

On behalf of the entire Forsyth Technical Community College community, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to the North Carolina Association of Community College Instructional Administrators and the North Carolina Student Development Administrators Association for your 2024 joint conference.

Forsyth Tech is honored to host this gathering of dedicated professionals who share a deep commitment to empowering students across the North Carolina Community College System. Your mission, to serve as a resource and support system for instructional and student services personnel, aligns perfectly with Forsyth Tech's unwavering dedication to student success.

As a catalyst for equitable economic mobility, Forsyth Tech recognizes your vital role in removing barriers and fostering an environment where all students can thrive. Your expertise, collaboration, and unwavering dedication directly impact the lives of countless students, and we are grateful for your tireless efforts.

I am confident that the joint conference will provide a valuable platform for professional development, networking, and the exchange of best practices. The college looks forward to hosting stimulating discussions and fostering connections that benefit students throughout our state's community college system.

I encourage you to take advantage of all that Forsyth Tech and Winston-Salem have to offer during your visit. This vibrant and growing community has a rich history and a dynamic future.

Welcome once again, and I wish you a productive and inspiring conference!

Warm regards,

Dr. Janet N. Spriggs

President, Forsyth Technical Community College



2024 NCSDAA & NCACCCIA Joint Conference Agenda

Thursday, March 21		
8:30 – 9:00 am	Registration, Check In, and Refreshments	Rhoades Lobby
9:00 – 9:20 am	<p>Conference Opening and Welcome Scott Johnson, Dean of Student Services, Wilkes Community College, NCSDAA President; Randy Ledford, Vice President for Learning, Mitchell Community College, NCACCCIA President</p>	Rhoades Conf Center
9:20 – 10:15 am	<p>Opening Plenary – “Mediocrity Just Happens, but Excellence is a Choice” Dr. Bob Shackelford, CEO, Shackelford Leadership Institute and Retired President, Randolph Community College</p>	Rhoades Conf Center
10:15 – 10:30 am	Break with Refreshments	Rhoades Lobby
10:30 – 11:30 am	<p>Breakout Session #1</p> <p>Transfer Advisory Committee Updates Maggie Brown, VP of Instruction & Student Support, Carteret Community College; Jami Dawkins, Transfer Programs Coordinator, UNC System; Jenn Gardner Selby, Executive Director, Transfer Success & Higher Ed Partnerships, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College; Jonathan Loss, Dean of Enrollment Management, Catawba Valley Community College; Tina McEntire, VC of Enrollment Management, University of North Carolina-Greensboro; Barry Priest, VP for Student Services, Bladen Community College</p> <p><i>The Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) is a joint effort of the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System established by legislative policy related to the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) between the two systems and charged with ensuring compliance of institutional policies and practices regarding the CAA. Join TAC members from both the two-year and four-year institutions to learn more about the latest updates.</i></p>	Rhoades Conf A

10:30 – 11:30 am

Breakout Session #1 (continued)

Interrogating and Operationalizing Data for Student Success

Natasha Lipscomb, Vice President of Student Success Services; Crystal Ryerson, Executive Director of Student Success Compliance & Operations, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

The Vice President of Student Success Services and the Executive Director of Student Success Compliance and Operations at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College share their process for examining dashboards and data sets to identify barriers to student success. We will walk through examples of our data mining processes at critical junctures of the student life cycle. During this workshop, participants will learn to interrogate their own data collection and decision-making processes by asking questions like...what are we doing that we need to stop doing? AND What are we doing that we need to do more of?

Rhoades Conf B

Leading DEI Initiatives: Guiding Effective Change as a Committee

Keisha Jones, Chief Student Services Officer/Chief DEI Officer, Davidson-Davie Community College; Director, Equity NC Student Success Center

Elevate your impact and effectiveness in leading Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives through our dynamic workshop, "Leading DEI Initiatives: Guiding Effective Change as a Committee." This is designed to empower committee leaders and members with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to drive meaningful transformation within your organization or community. Guiding DEI efforts requires a collaborative and strategic approach, where committees play a pivotal role in shaping inclusive cultures and equitable practices. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and practical exercises, this workshop equips participants with the skills to navigate.

Rhoades Conf C

Serving the Whole Student: Blue Love, a Success Network, and Success Coaching

Marbeth Holmes, Dean of Student Success; Renee Martinez, Executive Director of Advising Services, Nash Community College

"Serving the Whole Student: Blue Love, a Success Network, and Success Coaching" will showcase the full range of comprehensive services and data-driven design of the Success Network at Nash Community College. Participants will receive an overview of the unique campus culture of Blue Love that strives to meet the fundamental basic needs of students and enhance overall wellbeing from enrollment to graduation-and beyond. The presentation will demonstrate the importance of using community narratives and partnerships to shape holistic service and program delivery. "Serving the Whole Student" will illustrate how Nash Community College supports students with wraparound services that bridge equity gaps, foster connections, and strengthen academic success.

Room 4446

We Are Better Together

LaTonya M. Nixon, VP of Student Services and Chief DEI Officer; Lisa Hill, VP of Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Beaufort County Community College

Academic Affairs and Student Services at Beaufort County Community College have joined together to break away from silo thinking and practices and have moved toward inclusion and collaboration to improve our joint workflows. Come learn more about this shift in thinking and approach.

Room 4450

10:30 – 11:30 am	Breakout Session #1 (continued)	
	<p>Are We There Yet? Placement and Developmental Education 5.0 Brad Bostian, Executive Director of Student Success, Central Piedmont Community College</p> <p><i>To bolster college readiness, we've tried remediation and developmental education. We've been through developmental education redesign, multiple measures placement, R.I.S.E. and Co.D.E. Now we have D.E.A.P. Is this the end, or is there a land beyond? Most importantly, what does the data tell us about the progress we've made, and where we should go next?</i></p>	Auditorium 3340
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch and Networking; Sponsor Message from Watermark	Rhoades Conf Center
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Breakout Session #2	
	<p>Innovate Your Teaching & Learning with the Virtual Learning Community Candace Holder, Senior Vice President of Academics and Student Affairs, VLC Director, Quality and Assessment Center, Surry Community College; Colleen Galan, Coordinator of Quality Matters & Instructional Design, VLC Director, Technology Center, Fayetteville Technical Community College; Darrin Evans, Accessibility Technologist, VLC Director, Professional Development Center, Wake Technical Community College; Katherine Davis, Associate Vice President, Distance Learning Technologies, NC Community College System Office</p> <p><i>Innovative your college's online environment by utilizing the Virtual Learning Community (VLC), your online portal for free faculty resources. Access, review and download high-quality curriculum and UGETC courses as well as workforce development content. Explore live and on demand professional development training for your college. Learn about innovative technologies, and compliance requirements around accessibility, state authorization, and professional licensure. Request support and customized training for your college. Market your online courses and programs to potential students who can Learn. Virtually Anywhere.© Transform your college's teaching and learning with the VLC.</i></p>	Rhoades Conf A
	<p>NCCCS Data Dashboard Overview: Using System-Wide Data to Inform Local Decisions Elizabeth Stoddard, Director of Analytics and Reporting, NC Community College System Office</p> <p><i>This session will cover the NCCCS data dashboard initiative, which has greatly expanded data access over the last 4+ years for internal and external stakeholders interested in the 58 NC community colleges. The presentation will include an overview of how and why the dashboard initiative began and how data access has changed for the NC community colleges with the deployment of the dashboards. We will explain how to access the dashboards, how users can find dashboards of interest, and how to use features that are incorporated throughout the dashboards, including equity gap analyses, peer comparisons, and various disaggregations of the data.</i></p>	Rhoades Conf B

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Breakout Session #2 (continued)

Be(ing) Great in 8: Isothermal Community College's Transition to 8-Week Classes

Greg Thomas, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Analytics, Isothermal Community College

This presentation offers an in-depth analysis of Isothermal Community College's shift to a predominantly 8-week class format, focusing on the practicalities of this transition across both student services and academic affairs. We will discuss the decision-making process, highlighting the key factors that influenced this pivotal change in our educational model. Special emphasis will be placed on the challenges and strategies involved in modifying institutional culture and operations within both student-facing services and academic departments. This presentation is designed for educators and administrators seeking a comprehensive, professional perspective on implementing and refining a condensed academic schedule for maximum student benefit.

Rhoades Conf C

Increasing the Health Care Workforce Pipeline

Barbara Buchanan, Vice President, Instruction; Alisa Montgomery, Dean, Health & Public Safety, Piedmont Community College

Through partnership with our local hospital and in response to a direct request, Piedmont Community College is responding to local and regional workforce needs by adding a new Practical Nursing program, increasing enrollment in the ADN program, and offering an evening and weekend option for the ADN program on our Caswell campus. We start this cohort in the spring, opposite the fall entry for the traditional program to increase accessibility for non-traditional students. After the initial PN application process and approvals from NCCCS and SACSCOC, the NC Board of Nursing visited our site, learned about the number of applicants, and encouraged us to increase our initial request of 24 seats, to 48. Through strategic planning and seeking of outside funding sources, the College is able to implement the PN program and meet local and regional workforce needs.

Room 4446

Empowering the Workforce of Tomorrow: Navigating the AI Revolution

Andrea J. Crowley, Executive Director, NC Student Success Center; Lane Freeman, Director of Online Learning, NC Community College System Office

In this session, we explore the transformative role of AI in reshaping the workforce and community colleges' pivotal role in this evolution. As technological advancements necessitate substantial reskilling, we discuss innovative strategies for community colleges to adapt and lead in this changing landscape. The integration of AI into curricula and teaching methodologies is crucial, not only enhancing learner engagement but also equipping students with essential skills for AI-augmented jobs. This session offers insights into AI's impact on education and the workforce and showcases innovative approaches to curriculum development and AI tool integration in teaching and learning.

Room 4450

1:00 – 2:00 pm	Breakout Session #2 (continued)	
	<p>Navigating Success: A Comprehensive Approach to Strategic Enrollment Planning Monty Hickman, Associate Director for Enrollment Management, NC Community College System Office</p> <p><i>In this interactive and informative session, we will delve into the intricacies of designing and enhancing your institution's enrollment management plan. Aimed at directors, deans, and vice presidents across various service areas, this session is crafted to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary to create a robust enrollment strategy aligned with institutional goals.</i></p>	Auditorium 3340
2:00 – 2:20 pm	Break with Refreshments	Rhoades Lobby
2:20 – 3:20 pm	Breakout Session #3	
	<p>Dual Enrollment Evaluation Partnerships and Findings Emily Smail, Director of Research and Evaluation, NC Community College System Office</p> <p><i>Over the past four years, NCCCS has participated in an extensive evaluation of Career and College Promise (CCP) programs. This session will cover the nature of the research partnerships and results from the evaluation. The analyses indicate favorable outcomes for participation in any of three CCP pathways. Findings show that participation in a CCP program tends to have similar effects in both genders and both classes of race/ethnicity (i.e., underrepresented and not underrepresented), but stronger effects in students who are economically disadvantaged. These results demonstrate the need for a deeper understanding of how CCP is utilized.</i></p>	Rhoades Conf A
	<p>Using Data to Drive Communication and Student Success Candace Holder, Senior Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs; Mike Faulkner, Executive Director of Institutional Research, Surry Community College</p> <p><i>Over the past three years, Surry Community College has reduced early withdrawals by almost 50%. Relying on data to foster communication and coaching, Program Leaders can coordinate and direct interdisciplinary efforts, resulting in more successful students achieving their academic goals in less time.</i></p>	Rhoades Conf B
	<p>Understanding Session Law 2023-62 (SB 364) Keisha Jones, Chief Student Services Officer/Chief DEI Officer, Davidson-Davie Community College; Director, Equity NC Student Success Center</p> <p><i>Join us for an enlightening session with Keisha Jones, Director of Equity, as we explore Session Law 2023-62. Learn how this legislation affects the promotion of inclusive workplaces and diversity, explore the concepts it restricts, understand compliance strategies, and consider its implications for your organization's dedication to fostering an inclusive learning environment. Enhance your understanding of legislative changes and discover ways to promote unity and a sense of belonging on your campus.</i></p>	Rhoades Conf C

2:20 – 3:20 pm	Breakout Session #3 (continued)	
	<p>Retire the PDF Darrin Evans, Accessibility Technologist, VLC Director, Professional Development Center, Wake Technical Community College</p> <p><i>In this session participants will be introduced to EPUB files and how we can use them to replace PDF's. We will demonstrate the accessibility and ease of use advantages EPUB's have over PDF files. Because EPUB files are based on robust web technologies they are reflowable and easy to read on both computer and mobile screens. Participants will be provided with a workflow to create EPUB files out of structured accessible Microsoft Word Documents and participants will be introduced to the free WordToEPUB tool from the DAISY Consortium and will be shown how to create EPUB files using this tool.</i></p>	Room 4446
	<p>Leveraging Generative AI to Enhance Instructional and Student Services Lane Freeman, Director of Online Learning, NC Community College System Office</p> <p><i>Explore the transformative role of generative AI in academic instruction and student services at the NC Community College System in this session. Ideal for Chief Academic Officers and Student Services professionals, it delves into enhancing teaching, student engagement, and administrative processes using generative AI. We'll discuss practical applications, ethical considerations, and best practices, aiming to create a more dynamic, student-focused educational environment.</i></p>	Room 4450
	<p>Fostering a Culture of Feedback to Improve Student Success & Staff Engagement Jackie Foster, Dean of Student Support Services; Jeremy Gibbons, Dean of Enrollment Services; Beth Smedley, Director of Counseling and Student Accessibility Services; Sabrina Terry, Vice President of Student Services, Cape Fear Community College</p> <p><i>Learn how the Student Services Senior Leadership Team at Cape Fear CC explores the pivotal role of feedback in cultivating a culture that not only empowers staff but also enhances the student experience.</i></p>	Auditorium 3340
3:30 – 4:20 pm	NCCCS System Office Discussion and Updates Dr. Brian Merritt & Dr. JW Kelley	Rhoades Conf Center
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Association Meetings	
	<p>NCSDAA Meeting Scott Johnson, Dean of Student Services, Wilkes Community College, NCSDAA President</p>	Room 4446
	<p>NCACCIA Meeting Randy Ledford, Vice President for Learning, Mitchell Community College, NCACCIA President</p>	Room 4450

Friday, March 22

8:30 – 9:00 am	Networking and Refreshments	
9:00 – 9:10 am	Morning Opening; Sponsor Message from Lightcast	Rhoades Conf Center
9:10 – 10:15 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Morning Plenary – Thoughts on Excellence: An Aspen 150 Panel Dr. Garrett Hinshaw, Catawba Valley CC; Dr. Greg McLeod, Edgecombe CC; Dr. Carol Spalding, Rowan-Cabarrus CC; Dr. Don Tomas, Southwestern CC; Moderator: Dr. Brian Merritt, Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, NC Community College System Office</p>	Rhoades Conf Center
10:15 – 10:30 am	Break with Refreshments	Rhoades Lobby
10:30 – 11:20 am	Breakout Session #4	
	<p>Changing Culture through Career Communities at Central Carolina Community College Roy Allen, Dean, Public Safety; Cristy Holmes, Dean, Arts & STEM; Denise Martin, Dean, Health Sciences & Human Services; Sara Newcomb, Executive Director of Secondary Partnerships; Kristi Short, Vice President/Chief Academic Officer, Central Carolina Community College</p> <p><i>Through career communities, CCCC is changing culture and building community. Using this framework, the college is blurring the lines between curriculum, continuing education, and College and Career Readiness and between transfer programs and career technical education. CCCC has reorganized the college, changed Career and College Promise applications, adopted new marketing and recruitment strategies, modified student onboarding processes, and built community through cross-disciplinary events. This framework has inspired the college to focus more on workforce development and regional career opportunities. The transition to career communities will also impact program review, advisory boards, student life, first semester pathways, and ACA classes.</i></p>	Rhoades Conf A
	<p>9-14 Pathways, Expanding Opportunities for High School Students in Postsecondary Education Aaron Mabe, Program Coordinator for Career and College Promise; Jennifer McLean, Associate Director of Student Support Services; Mary Olvera, Program Coordinator for Career and Technical Education, NC Community College System Office</p> <p><i>The Perkins V, Career & Technical Education Act supports programs that bridge high school and postsecondary education to prepare students for careers in various fields. This session will explore the elements for colleges to strengthen their 9-14 pathways while expanding enrollment opportunities and increasing completion rates. Discussion topics will include information expanding Career and College Promise pathways, credit for prior learning, dual-credit, articulation agreements, work-based learning, career advising, career coaching, and much more!</i></p>	Rhoades Conf B

10:30 – 11:20 am

Breakout Session #4 (continued)

Balancing Faculty and Student Services Needs and Strengths in Addressing Student Conduct

Scott Jaeschke, Director, Student Conduct and Community Standards, Guilford Technical Community College

We often find a disconnect in managing student conduct concerns comprehensively: faculty are the eyes and ears who detect it while student services administrators manage the policies that cover it. Without care, both sides can feel unheard and unsatisfied after a student conduct investigation. This presentation will share strategies from GTCC to bridge the faculty/staff divide and turn student conduct responses into genuine partnerships that honor the needs of both populations while providing quality, transparent service to students. Details from the college's academic integrity and student conduct policies will be shared and audience-directed scenarios will be emphasized.

Rhoades Conf C

Using Healthcare Apprenticeships to Meet Critical Healthcare Needs

Heather Woodson, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Lori Metcalf, Dean of Health and Human Services, Gaston College

Gaston College partnered with CaroMont Health to address healthcare staffing shortages through multiple avenues apprenticeship, new programs, dual-enrollment opportunities, scholarships, expansion of simulation, and shared faculty. Foremost among these efforts has been the establishment of multiple healthcare apprenticeships. Currently, Gaston College and CaroMont Health offer healthcare apprenticeship opportunities in nurse aide I and II, phlebotomy, medical assisting, central sterile processing, practical nursing, surgical technology, and licensed practical nursing to associate degree nursing (LPN-to-RN). To date, over 600 diverse students have been enrolled and well-supported in Gaston College programs resulting from the partnership with CaroMont.

Room 4446

Empowering Instructors through Course Development Partnerships

Sarah Parlier, Director of Teaching and Learning, Blue Ridge Community College

This presentation will outline the course development process that Blue Ridge Community College's Teaching and Learning Department developed with academic leaders to create engaging courses for both curriculum and continuing education students. Presenters will discuss the various stages of the process, the key relationships between instructors and instructional designers, and the checks and balances built into the process to ensure sustainability and quality. Presenters will provide design and activity examples from newly developed courses as well as recommendations for attendees interested in developing a structured process.

Room 4450

10:30 – 11:20 am	Breakout Session #4 (continued)	
	<p>Empowering Through Technology: Unlocking a Virtual Landscape for Increased Student Support James Whicker, Student Success Advisor; Jan Byrum, Coordinator, Transfer Advising; Torry L. Reynolds, AVP, Student Success Services, Forsyth Technical Community College</p> <p><i>Meeting students where they are means going beyond traditional mechanisms and boldly pursuing new connections. In our constant pursuit of excellence in serving students, Forsyth Tech launched a series of virtual advising and registration events using innovative technologies and cross-divisional collaboration. Join us to explore how leveraging technology during unconventional periods can streamline administrative processes and empower students with a more flexible and responsive advising and holistic support experience. The presenters will share the implementation and successes of Forsyth Tech's inaugural virtual Rock Enroll and Winter Break Support activities to provide students with the full slate of support services.</i></p>	Auditorium 3340
11:30 am – 12:20 pm	Closing Plenary – System President's Address, Dr. Jeff Cox, NC Community College System President	Rhoades Conf Center
12:20 – 12:35 pm	Conference Final Remarks/Door Prize Finale	Rhoades Conf Center

Featured Session Speakers



Dr. Jeff Cox

Dr. Jeff Cox is the 11th president of the North Carolina Community College System and a lifelong champion of North Carolina public education.

Prior to leading the System, Dr. Cox served as the President of Wilkes Community College from 2014 to 2023 where he more than doubled the completion rate at the college, raised \$20 million for strategic initiatives, and created a five-year strategic plan seen as a national model for other institutions.

Cox formerly served as the Superintendent of Alleghany County Schools from 2005 to 2014. He also has served as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction for Lee County Schools and an elementary principal and assistant principal in Union County Schools. He began his career as a high school teacher and coach.

In 2017, Dr. Cox was awarded an Aspen Institute Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence. He was one of 40 college leaders in the country selected for this prestigious program through a rigorous process that considered candidates' abilities to take strategic risks, lead strong teams, cultivate partnerships, and focus on results-oriented improvements for greater student success and access.

In 2001, Dr. Cox earned his Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He also has a Master's in School Administration and a bachelor's degree in English—Secondary Education, both of which he earned from Appalachian State University. Dr. Cox and his wife, Reba, have three sons Dylan, Evan, and Zach and four dogs.



Dr. Robert S. Shackelford, Jr.

Dr. Robert "Bob" Shackelford, Jr. is no stranger to the North Carolina Community College System. Dr. Shackelford served for over 15 years as the President of Randolph Community College, capping a five-decade career as a minister, military chaplain, and educator. During his tenure at Randolph Community College, he was named the North Carolina Community College System President of the Year in 2013 and received the North Carolina Order of the Longleaf Pine in 2022. His varied experiences also saw him assigned to the Pentagon as a military chaplain, where he provided counseling and pastoral care after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on that building.

Dr. Shackelford began his postsecondary education at Bluefield (Va.) College, earning an Associate of Science in Secondary Education. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from the School of the Ozarks in Missouri. He completed a Master of Divinity in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Care from Southeastern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, before earning a Master of Science in Child Development and Family Relations and a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies, both from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Since 2022, Dr. Shackelford has been the CEO of the Shackelford Leadership Institute, providing leadership training and executive coaching for colleges, nonprofits, local governments, and other organizations across North Carolina.



Dr. Brian Merritt

Dr. Brian S. Merritt joined the North Carolina Community College System in 2023 as senior vice president and chief academic officer. Before this, he was the president of McDowell Technical Community College (MTCC) from 2021. Under his leadership, MTCC developed a strategic plan with community partners, resulting in significant enrollment growth. He also spearheaded fundraising, securing nearly \$9M in grants and facilitating \$28M in capital projects, including a new off-site center and upgrades to health sciences and public safety facilities.

With a rich background in higher education, Dr. Merritt served as vice president and chief academic officer at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) for seven years. He also held roles as dean of student learning and grants & alumni relations director at CCCC, raising over \$34 million in grants to enhance student access and success.

A staunch advocate for equitable education solutions, Dr. Merritt hails from Chatham County, NC. He has also contributed to college admissions, alumni affairs, and first-year experiences at institutions like Appalachian State University, Louisburg College, and North Carolina Central University.

Featured Session Speakers



Dr. JW Kelley

James “JW” Kelley serves as the associate vice president – student services for the North Carolina Community College System office. He previously served as vice president for student services at Randolph Community College. He began his community college career at Fayetteville Technical Community College as a student services counselor and subsequently progressed through the positions of director of admissions and division chair for humanities/social sciences. His academic experiences include serving as an adjunct instructor at Fayetteville Technical Community College, Webster University, and other institutions. JW holds an Educational Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University, a Master in Arts from Cincinnati Christian University, and a Bachelor in Arts from Johnson University. JW is a veteran of the US Army serving during Just Cause and Desert Storm and was stationed at Ft. Bragg. He is married and they enjoy hiking and running 5k & 10k races. Their two sons currently attend NC

State University. His favorite authors are Malcom Gladwell, JRR Tolkien, CS Lewis, Terry Brooks, and Michael Crichton. He and his family thoroughly enjoy Marvel and DC entertainment.



Dr. Garrett D. Hinshaw

Dr. Garrett D. Hinshaw became the third president of Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) on August 1, 2006. His journey as a leader started at a young age through athletics and has continued to develop through innovation, calculated risk taking, and a deep passion for helping others to reach their dreams. Under his leadership, CVCC has continued its history of empowering individuals to aspire, dream, and achieve. The College serves as a leading entity in redefining the region’s economy through his collaborative efforts to develop partnerships at the local, state, and national levels. He is often quoted for his belief that, “the student is always the most important person on our campus.” Red Hawk Nation focuses on the 4 E’s under Dr. Hinshaw’s leadership: Valuing Every Interaction, Quality Engagements, Relentless Execution, and Commitment to Excellence.



Dr. Greg McLeod

With a passion to help all students excel and succeed, Dr. Greg McLeod is committed and dedicated to serving the higher education and workforce training needs of our community, region, and state. His career includes many rich and diverse experiences ranging from teaching, advising, coaching, and training to developing innovative programs and establishing strategic partnerships.

Dr. McLeod is a graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned a bachelor’s degree in math education as a NC Teaching Fellow Scholar, North Carolina State University where he earned a master’s degree in training and development and a certificate in business management, and Barry University in Florida where he earned a Ph.D. in leadership and education.

After teaching math at the middle school and high school levels and working as a corporate trainer and marketing specialist in the private sector, Dr. McLeod began his community college career in North Carolina in 2001. From there, he served in a variety of leadership and administrative roles both in Florida and in Virginia prior to returning to his native North Carolina in August 2018 when he began serving as the fifth president of Edgecombe Community College.

Dr. McLeod is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Economic and Workforce Development and the North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents where he serves as board secretary. He serves on the NC Community Colleges Developmental Education Advisory Council, ECU Health Edgecombe Hospital Directors’ Council, Upper Coastal Plain Learning Council, and the boards of the Tarboro-Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce, United Way Tar River Region, Carolinas Gateway Partnership, and Strategic Twin-Counties Education Partnership. He is immediate past president of the Tarboro Rotary Club and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the Sigma Pi Phi Boulé, and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Dr. McLeod is a strong believer in mentoring and serving the community. Over the years, he has actively served as a mentor to middle school, high school, and college students and developed and led technology camps involving computer coding and robotics. He has also helped coordinate and lead a variety of youth leadership and career exploration programs and still teaches math and college success classes as his schedule allows.

Featured Session

Speakers



Dr. Carol S. Spalding

Dr. Carol S. Spalding became the President of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College following a distinguished career including serving as interim president at Florida State College at Jacksonville. She founded Open Campus, focusing on non-traditional credit delivery for military and online education. Under her leadership, Rowan-Cabarrus achieved significant milestones, including passing bond referendums, doubling online enrollment, and expanding from two to four campuses. The Dr. Carol S. Spalding Advanced Technology Center is the newest building at the North Carolina Research Campus.

Rowan-Cabarrus enrolls over 20,000 students annually in various programs, emphasizing public service workforce training. Dr. Spalding's advocacy for student success and community college contributions to workforce development earned her numerous accolades and awards.

Dr. Spalding holds a doctorate in Education from Columbia University and has a strong background in servant leadership. She actively contributed to community leadership at local, state, and national levels, chairing the National Association for Community Leadership. Additionally, she received professional development and scholarships from prestigious institutions.

Her achievements extend to serving on both local and national boards and organizations. As the 2019 President of the Year, she transformed Rowan-Cabarrus into a catalyst for regional change, promoting regional workforce development and collaboration with multiple partners for better opportunities.



Dr. Don Tomas

Dr. Don Tomas has served since July 1, 2011 as President of Southwestern Community College in Sylva, North Carolina. Dr. Tomas is a strong advocate of creating and strengthening business partnerships, workforce development and supporting the regional business community through vocational education and customized training. He has embraced and made substantial strides through the recruitment, retention and promotion of faculty, staff, and an environment reflective of each community's diversity of the colleges he has served. Dr. Tomas is committed to an environment that values the exploration, appreciation, and celebration of diversity, while promoting inclusiveness, multiculturalism, and global awareness through collaborative relationships on campus and the community. He is actively involved in several local civic organizations in Jackson, Macon and Swain counties, and serves on various boards and commissions in western North Carolina and state-wide.

Dr. Tomas has 18 years teaching experience within the community college, and 2 years each in public and private schools. Dr. Tomas has an earned Ed.D in Education/Higher Education Administration from Grambling State University, an M.A. in Developmental Physical Education from Texas Woman's University and a B.S. in Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. Dr. Tomas and his wife Allison have been married for 42 years, and are the proud parents of three daughters - Merrill, Emily and Abigail and grandparents of 4 boys and 4 girls.

Breakout Session Speakers



Roy Allen

After retiring with 32 years in law enforcement, Roy Allen began his higher education career seven years ago as a Criminal Justice instructor and transitioned to Dean of Public Safety at Piedmont Community College. Currently the Dean of Public Safety at Central Carolina Community College, he oversees all curriculum and continuing education public safety programs.



Brad Bostian

Brad Bostian serves as Executive Director of Student Success at Central Piedmont Community College. Brad began teaching English in the 1980's, joined Central Piedmont in 1998, is a current Student Affairs administrator, part-time researcher and long time student of developmental education and placement, and other student success issues.



Dr. Maggie Brown

Dr. Maggie Brown serves as Vice President of Instruction and Student Support at Carteret Community College. She began her career as an English and journalism instructor at West Craven High School. She then moved to Lenoir Community College from 2004-2020 in progressively responsible roles, most recently as Dean of Industrial Technologies. She completed her Bachelor of Science and her Master's Degree in English from East Carolina University and her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Higher Education from Western Carolina University.



Dr. Barbara Buchanan

Dr. Barbara Buchanan serves as Piedmont Community College's VP of Instruction/ CAO. She has spent years working to support students, faculty, and staff to achieve successes. She earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in English from SFA in Texas, and she earned her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in College Station. Dr. Buchanan has worked as a faculty member, dean, and vice president. She currently serves on the Kerr Tar WDB and has served on numerous other state, regional, and local boards.



Jan Byrum

Jan Byrum, the Coordinator of Student Success and Transfer Advising at Forsyth Tech, brings over 15 years of dedicated service to student empowerment. Excited about facilitating efficient achievement, Jan passionately explores avenues to connect students with vital resources. Her commitment to student success is evident in her efforts to foster a supportive environment where each individual can thrive and reach their full potential.



Leeann Cline-Burris

Leeann Cline-Burris is the Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Analytics at Isothermal Community College, where she leads efforts related to accreditation, assessment, and strategic planning. Additionally, she serves as the SACSCOC Liaison. Prior to her current position, she served as the Continuing Education Registrar. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration—Accounting and Master's in Business Administration from Western Carolina University. She is currently enrolled in Old Dominion University's Community College Leadership program.



Dr. Andrea J. Crowley

Dr. Andrea J. Crowley, Executive Director of the North Carolina Student Success Center, fosters the holistic growth of lifelong learners and advances educational excellence. Dr. Crowley brings a business development perspective gained from private sector experience in developing strategic media partnerships prior to her roles in higher education. With experience as a Department Chair, QEP Director, and Workforce Development Consultant, Dr. Crowley designs professional competency models and programs preparing learners for the future of work.



Katherine Davis

Katherine Davis serves as the Associate Vice President, Distance Learning Technologies, for the North Carolina Community College System. Katherine provides system-wide contract management, administration, and support for the learning management systems, integrated library system, the open education resource platform (OER) openNCCC, and the NC Brain machine learning initiative, other digital resource platforms and software utilized by the community colleges and the System Office. She is an Agile Certified Practitioner.



Jami Dawkins

Jami Dawkins has dedicated her higher education career to addressing the needs of transfer students. Her experience spans across sectors including a NC Community College, a UNC Institution and now the UNC System Office where she is the Transfer Programs Coordinator. Her various roles have involved transfer-specific academic advising, transfer admissions, personal academic counseling, transfer programming and project management. Jami is proud to continue efforts to improve transfer student experiences and increase transfer student success.



Darrin Evans

Darrin Evans is the Director of The Virtual Learning Community (VLC) Professional Development (PD) Center and an Accessibility Technologist at Wake. He has his Master's in Instructional Technology and Design and is a former middle school teacher and technology facilitator. He has presented across the state and country for The NC Community College System office on Accessibility, Instructional Technology, and Teaching Online.



Mike Faulkner

Mike Faulkner, Executive Director of Institutional Research at Surry Community College, is a University of Michigan graduate with an MBA from Xavier (Ohio) University. With over 40 years of experience in business and education, Mike has sought to bring data analytics and data visualizations to higher education as he has throughout his business career with ORACLE and other Fortune 500 companies. Mike is a past recipient of the "Excellence in Teaching Award" from Surry Community College.



JacQueline Foster

JacQueline Foster is the Dean of Student Support Services at Cape Fear Community College. She has a Master's degree in Counseling from East Carolina University. She has served in various roles at CFCC beginning as a Counselor and later as the first Director of Student Services; Director of Counseling and Senior Director of Student Development. She is humbled by the fact that she is able to do what she is most passionate about; serving students and supporting their quest for success.

Breakout Session Speakers



Dr. Lane Freeman

Dr. Lane Freeman, Director of Online Learning at the NC Community College System, is a pioneer in integrating technology in education. With a rich history in both K-12 and higher education, he has significantly advanced online learning methodologies and is a visionary in applying AI and innovative strategies to enhance educational outcomes.



Colleen Galan

Colleen Galan, B.S., is the Director of the VLC Technology Center and the Coordinator for Quality Matters and Instructional Design at Fayetteville Technical Community College. She is an advocate for community college education and lifelong learning. Her academic background is in the Social Sciences, Human Behavior, and Adult Education.



Jenn Gardner Selby

Jenn Gardner Selby serves as the Executive Director of Transfer Success & Higher Education Partnerships at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. She was a founding member of the N3C2A (Advising Association) and the NCCC AFA Associations, and was past-president of both organizations. Jenn is an appointed representative of the community college system on the Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) and serves on the board of the National Council of Arts Administrators.



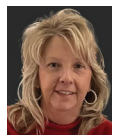
Jeremy Gibbons

Jeremy Gibbons serves as Dean of Enrollment Services at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, NC. His areas of responsibility include Recruitment, Admissions, Testing Services, Educational Partnerships, Registrar's Office, and Latino Outreach. He started his career as an admissions counselor and over the last 17 years has served multiple institutions across the country. His professional efforts have remained focused on college access by reducing enrollment barriers, launching innovative outreach strategies, and building high impact teams. He earned a BA from Castleton State College and an MA in Higher Education Administration from Bay Path University.



Dr. Monty Hickman

Dr. Monty Hickman serves as the Associate Director for Enrollment Management for the North Carolina Community College System Office. Dr. Hickman is a native of the small village of Central, NC. He received his bachelor's degree in English from Winston-Salem State University, Master's in Public Administration from North Carolina Central University, and Doctor of Philosophy in Education Management from Hampton University. He has over 25 years in higher education, with previous roles at Winston-Salem State University, Saint Augustine's University, and Bennett College.



Dr. Lisa Hill

Dr. Lisa Hill has over 30 years of experience in education, predominantly in post-secondary settings. She serves as the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Chief Academic Officer at Beaufort County Community College. Dr. Hill oversees diverse student populations. Her career is dedicated to fostering inclusive learning environments and academic excellence. Dr. Hill is passionate about empowering students to reach their fullest potential, and she continuously strives to innovate and enhance educational opportunities for all.



Dr. Candace Holder

Bringing over two decades of dedicated service in public higher education, Dr. Candace Holder proudly serves as the Senior Vice President of Academics and Student Affairs at Surry Community College. During her tenure, she has served as chief academic officer, chief information officer, distance learning director, instructor, and Director of the NC Community College System, Virtual Learning Community Quality & Assessment Center. Candace's professional goal is to provide collaborative leadership that supports the educational mission of Surry Community College & the entire NC Community College System.



Cristy Holmes

Cristy Holmes currently serves as the Dean of Arts and STEM at Central Carolina Community College. She has worked in the North Carolina Community College System for 15 years, previously serving in a variety of roles, including Spanish instructor, academic advisor and department head of Advising and Academic Success.



Marbeth Holmes

As Dean of Student Services at Nash Community College, Marbeth Holmes oversees the Success Network, which includes the Advising and Success Center, Library Services, Student Engagement, Career Placement, ACA academic success courses, the Student Wellness Center, Watermark, and the MMSI initiative. Marbeth earned her Master of Social Work at UNC, a Master of Arts in English at Abilene Christian University. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist, and a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional.



Scott Jaeschke

Scott Jaeschke has served as Guilford Technical Community College's student conduct officer for the last four years. Prior to that he served in a similar role in the South Carolina Technical Education System for five years. He is most proud professionally of centering a restorative justice approach to student conduct in his office's work and of forging strong, two-way partnership was a large cross section of faculty members and instructional administrators at the college.



Keisha Jones

Keisha Jones is a distinguished leader in the realm of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), bringing over 19 years of comprehensive experience across higher education, workforce development, and leadership. In her current roles as the Vice President of Student Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer at Davidson-Davie Community College, along with her position as Director of Equity at the NC Student Success Center, Keisha has been instrumental in pioneering initiatives that foster an inclusive and equitable environment for students and staff alike.



Natasha Lipscomb

Natasha Lipscomb joined the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College family in 2005 and has served in several roles including adjunct faculty member, director of student life, executive director of student success, and vice president. Vice President Lipscomb is a May 2024 doctoral candidate in the Ph.D. Curriculum and Instruction- Urban Education Program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research agenda includes the impact of culturally relevant leadership practices on student success retention outcomes.

Breakout Session Speakers



Dr. Jonathan Loss

Dr. Jonathan Loss has almost 20 years of combined academic and student services experience at Catawba Valley Community College, where he currently serves as Dean of Enrollment Management. He has helped lead multiple state-level projects related to curriculum alignment and successful student transfer including the NCCCS Mathematics Curriculum Improvement Project, the University of North Carolina System's Math Pathways taskforce, and the joint NCCCS and UNC System Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC), which he currently co-chairs.



Aaron Mabe

Aaron Mabe is a native of Fayetteville, NC, and has worked in Higher Education for over ten years. Serving as the Program Coordinator for Career and College Promise at the NC Community College System Office, supporting the state's dual enrollment programs and Perkins V Career and Technical Education. Before joining the system office, he worked at various community colleges in eastern North Carolina, most recently at Fayetteville Technical Community College as the Director of Student Success.



Denise Martin

After working over twenty years in the healthcare industry, Denise Martin started at Central Carolina Community College almost nine years ago as the Health Information Technology Program Director, then moved into the role of Associate Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services and is now the Dean of Health Sciences and Professional Services.



Renee Martinez

As the Executive Director of Advising Services at Nash Community College, Renee Martinez oversees advising and success coaching. She is a QPR trainer and is First Aid Mental Health, Safe Zone, and Green Zone certified. Renee has a Bachelor in Arts in English, Master of Arts in English with a concentration in Rhetoric and Composition as well as a Master of Arts in Adult Education all from East Carolina University.



Tina McEntire

Tina McEntire has served as the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management at UNC Greensboro since June of 2020. McEntire is charged with leading the Enrollment Management Division and overseeing the enrollment strategy for the institution. Before joining UNC Greensboro, McEntire served as the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management at UNC Charlotte, where she was responsible for enrollment planning throughout the student life cycle. A first-generation college student, McEntire earned her Master of Public Administration and bachelor's degree at UNC Charlotte.



Jennifer McLean

Jennifer McLean serves as the Associate Director of Student Support Services for the Student Services and Perkins office in the North Carolina Community College System Office. She brings 22 years of professional experience working with educational institutions and non-profit organizations. Before joining the system office, Jennifer worked at Johnston Community College and Robeson Community College as their Director of TRIO Student Support Services, grants awarded through the US Department of Education.



Dr. Lori Metcalf

Dr. Lori Metcalf has been employed in the North Carolina Community College System since 1995, with the past 24 years at Gaston College. She has been a psychology instructor, department chair, associate dean, and currently is the Dean of Health and Human Services. Her interests include instructional design, program review, organizational culture, and the social psychology of leadership.



Alisa Montgomery

Alisa Montgomery is the Dean, Health & Public Safety at Piedmont Community College. As an ADN graduate of PCC, she has a passion for helping students fulfill their goals of working in healthcare. She has worked to expand the nursing program offerings and increase continuing education healthcare courses. In addition to her ADN, she earned her BSN from UNC-Greensboro, MSN from East Carolina University, and plans to start her DNP at Western Carolina University this summer.



Sara Newcomb

With over a decade of experience in higher education, Sara Newcomb joined the Central Carolina Community College family in 2018 and currently serves as the Executive Director of Secondary Partnerships. In this role, she supervises career coaches working with CCP students, supports early colleges, collaborates with school districts to ensure CCP program success, advises 9th and 10th-grade CCP students, and co-chairs the guided pathways team. Sara also teaches business and marketing courses as an adjunct faculty member.



Dr. LaTonya M. Nixon

Dr. LaTonya M. Nixon serves as the Vice President of Student Services and Chief DEI Officer at Beaufort County Community College. An educator for the past 25 years, she previously served as Dean of Student Services at Roanoke-Chowan Community College and Director of TRIO Programs at Pitt Community College, as well as positions at Tidewater (Va.) Community College. A consistent community advocate, Dr. Nixon serves as the Vice Chair for the Koinonia Community Solutions and numerous other civic and social organizations.



Dr. Mary Olvera

Mary Olvera, Ph.D., is a Program Administrator and CTE Coordinator with the North Carolina Community College System Office. Previously, she served at Surry Community College for 12 years as the Lead Instructor and faculty member for Early Childhood Education Program. She has over 20 years of experience in the field of education and has served as an Adjunct Professor for Winston Salem State University and Lees-McRae College and a teacher in the public school system and non-profit organization.



Dr. Sarah Parlier

Dr. Sarah Parlier is the Director of Teaching and Learning at Blue Ridge Community College. She has over 25 years of teaching experience in K-12, community college, and alternative education settings. Her professional interests include professional development, assessment, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and instructional design. When she's not thinking about teaching, she's either cooking, spending time with family, or riding her bike.

Breakout Session Speakers



Barry Priest

Barry Priest, a dedicated education professional, boasts 28 years of impactful service at Bladen Community College. Since 2015, he has held the role of Vice President for Student Services, demonstrating his commitment to student success. Barry has served as the President of NCSDDA and several years as the Southeast Regional Representative for the NCSDDA. His influence extends to key committees, contributing actively to the Developmental Education Council, Performance Measure Review Committee, and Transfer Advisory Committee, reflecting his passion for advancing academic excellence.



Dr. Torry L. Reynolds

Torry L. Reynolds, PhD, is a passionate developmental educator and higher education professional committed to fostering the personal and professional growth of college students. With over fourteen years of experience, Dr. Reynolds has cultivated a diverse skill set across various facets of higher education, including student affairs, sponsored projects, academic leadership, and strategic enrollment management. Dr. Reynolds is a proud Forsyth Tech Trailblazer where she currently serves as AVP of Student Success Services.



Crystal Ryerson

Crystal Ryerson is a seasoned professional with over 19 years of dedicated service at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. As the Executive Director of Operations and Compliance, Crystal oversees critical aspects of the college's functions, ensuring operational efficiency and regulatory adherence. With a master's degree in business administration, Crystal brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role. Her journey at Rowan-Cabarrus began in Financial Aid, where she honed her skills before venturing into various domains such as Continuing Education, Recruitment, CCP Advising, and Academics.



Kristi Short

Currently the Chief Academic Officer at Central Carolina Community College, Kristi Short began her career as a faculty member at Guilford Technical Community College. She later coordinated GTCC's online degree programs and redesigned academic and nonacademic support. She also served as implementation director for Completion by Design, the first national guided pathways initiative. Immediately prior to joining CCCC, Kristi served as Director of the Texas Success Center, where she supported 50 community college districts to improve educational and employment outcomes for students.



Dr. Emily J. Smal

Emily J. Smal, Ph.D., is the Director of Research and Evaluation for the North Carolina Community College System. She supports research projects geared toward understanding community college programming and assessing trends in program engagement. In addition, she works with community college leaders to develop, implement, and execute evaluation efforts for system-wide programs. Dr. Smal holds a Ph.D. in Public Mental Health from Johns Hopkins University and dual Bachelor's degrees in Genetics and Psychology from Clemson University.



Beth Smedley

Beth Smedley joined Cape Fear Community College in 2020 where she now serves as Director of Counseling and Student Accessibility Services. As a first generation, community college graduate, she understands the

importance of fostering an inclusive environment and providing wraparound services. Beth is a tireless advocate for mental health support and accessibility initiatives which support all students in their academic achievement. She has over 25 years of experience in higher ed and a Master's in Counseling from Webster University.



Elizabeth Stoddard

Elizabeth Stoddard has worked with educational data and analytics since 2010. During her 5 years at the NC Community College System Office, she has developed dozens of dashboards using college and system-level data, and was responsible for the rollout of the public-facing and access-controlled NCCCS dashboards to external and internal stakeholders. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor's degree from James Madison University and a Master's degree from San Francisco State University.



Sabrina Terry

Sabrina Terry serves as the Vice President of Student Services at Cape Fear Community College. Sabrina previously served as Dean of Student Services at Surry Community College and as Registrar & Admissions Officer at Wytheville (Va.) Community College. Sabrina became interested in Student Services in 2002 when she served as a work-study student at Virginia Highlands Community College. She is a product of the community college system, having earned an Associate Degree in Education before earning an undergraduate degree in Communications from Old Dominion University and a graduate degree in Higher Education Administration from Capella University.



Dr. Greg Thomas

Dr. Greg Thomas serves as VP for Academic and Student Affairs at Isothermal Community College. He leads academic and student services in furtherance of Isothermal's mission to "improve life through learning." Prior to this role, Dr. Thomas served as Dean of Student Learning at a rural Wyoming community college and previously taught communication and directed debate programs at two universities in Fayetteville, NC. Dr. Thomas earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership from Fayetteville State University.



James Whicker

James Whicker is a transfer advisor at Forsyth Technical Community College with a passion for student success. With over a decade of experience teaching Student Success Strategies, he has provided guidance to countless students, helping them navigate academic challenges and achieve their goals. James is passionate about developing personalized strategies for student advancement and promoting holistic student development through non-traditional means and formats.



Dr. Heather Woodson

Dr. Heather Woodson has worked in NCCCS since 2004 as a faculty member, department chair, dean, associate vice president, and currently, as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Gaston College. She also has many years of experience as a SACSCOC liaison. During her time in NCCCS, she has been active in program development and improvement, student success initiatives, holistic student support implementation, distance education, assessment, and grant writing and management.

Planning Committee



Scott Johnson

Scott Johnson, President of the North Carolina Student Development Administrators Association, is the dean of student services at Wilkes Community College where he has worked for the past 27 years. He previously served as director of enrollment management and student life, and student activities coordinator. He holds multiple degrees from Appalachian State University, including an Ed.S. and MA in Higher Education Administration, and a BS in Business Administration. He and his wife, Heather, live in Jonesville, NC and have three adult children, two of whom are graduates of WCC.



Randy Ledford

Randy Ledford, President of the North Carolina Association of Community College Instructional Administrators, is a first-generation college graduate with over 25 years in education and serves as the Vice President for Learning and SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison at Mitchell Community College. Committed to broadening access to higher education, he aspires to reduce barriers and boost students' social and economic mobility. His leadership extends beyond academics to workforce development and local economic sustainability, bridging learning with relevant career skills in the dynamic regional and national economies.



Kirsten Bunch

Kirsten Bunch serves as the Vice President for Student Services at Blue Ridge Community College. Kirsten has been at BRCC over 25 years, serving in various positions in Student Services. Kirsten is a graduate of Blue Ridge Community College and also holds degrees from Mars Hill University and Western Carolina University.



Brian Gann

Brian Gann serves as Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Brian is a first-generation college student and a proud community college graduate. He received an Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts from Beville State Community College before earning Bachelor and Master degrees from The University of Alabama. He has dedicated his professional career to serving students in community colleges over the last 22 years.



Andy Gardner

After graduating college, Andy Gardner was given the opportunity to join Cleveland Community College (Home of the Yetis) as the Financial Aid Director. Since 1997, he's had the honor and privilege of giving back to my hometown community college serving in different capacities, including currently as the Vice President of Student Affairs. He has been involved with SDAA as the Association's Treasurer since 2010. He enjoys working with and learning from his colleagues in this association.



Jenn Gardner Selby

Jenn Gardner Selby serves as the Executive Director of Transfer Success & Higher Education Partnerships at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. She was a founding member of the N3C2A (Advising Association) and the NCCC AFA Associations, and was past-president of both organizations. Jenn is an appointed representative of the community college system on the Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) and serves on the board of the National Council of Arts Administrators.



Dr. Christina Hill

Dr. Christina Hill is currently the Dean of Health Sciences, Life Sciences and Public Services at Cleveland Community College, in Shelby, NC. Christina has over 20 years of experience as a hair stylist. After much success as a stylist, Christina made the decision to share her knowledge by becoming an instructor. For the past 17 years, she has taught at CCC. Christina's dedication and commitment to education ultimately led her to assume the position of Dean at CCC.



Dr. Wendy Hines

Dr. Wendy Hines serves as the Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services at Haywood Community College and Vice President of the NCACCIA Association. She has held a variety of teaching and administrative roles during her 20-year tenure in the North Carolina Community System. She is a native of Western North Carolina and enjoys spending time running on mountain trails in her spare time.



Dr. Dolly Horton

Dr. Dolly Horton is the Vice President for Instructional Services at Bladen Community College and has been in the NC Community College System for 24 years. She obtained her Doctorate in Education from Walden University, Masters of Education from Regent University, and undergraduate degrees from Western Carolina University and Western Piedmont Community College.



Dr. LaRonda Lowery

Dr. LaRonda Lowery currently serves as the Assistant Vice President for Instruction and Student Support Services and SACSCOC Liaison at Robeson Community College. With over 20 years of experience in higher education, she has served as the AVP for Instructional Services, Program Director for Mathematics and Science, and mathematics instructor. Dr. Lowery holds a BS in Mathematics Education and an MA in Mathematics Education from UNC-Pembroke and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Liberty University.

Planning Committee



Dr. LaTonya M. Nixon

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Dr. Natalie Winfree

Dr. Natalie Winfree is the Vice President of Instruction and Student Services at Montgomery Community College (MCC). She joined MCC in 2012, serving as the College Counselor and then as the Director of Counseling Services. Dr. Winfree became the Dean of Arts and Sciences in January 2019 while teaching Psychology courses. As a newly appointed Vice President (December 2023), she is excited to continue her commitment to MCC and its mission.

The Planning Committee wishes to thank Carter Wingfield, Graphic Designer at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, for his creative efforts on the 2024 Joint Conference program.