

**North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships  
2024 Government Research Partnerships Learning Forum**

Thursday, April 11, 2024

8:00am – 5:00pm

North Carolina Museum of Art, East Building  
2110 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607

**Agenda**

*\*Note: We will be recording portions of this event. By attending the event you agree to be photographed/recorded.*

**8:00-9:00**      **Check-in, Coffee, Networking**  
NC Museum of Art East Building, Education Gallery, Level A (Street Level)

**9:00-9:15**      **Welcome and Overview of Learning Forum**  
SECU Auditorium, Level A (Street Level)

*Jenni Owen, Director, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships  
Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson, Provost, N.C. A&T State University  
Jennifer Mundt, Assistant Secretary of Clean Energy Economic Development, NC  
Department of Commerce (NC Commerce)*

**9:15-10:30**      **Cross-sector Partnership Features and Q&A Part 1**  
Government-research & government-philanthropy partnerships: lightning talks + discussion  
SECU Auditorium, Level A (Street Level)

*Facilitators: Jenni Owen; Dr. David Yokum, Chief Scientist, NC Office of State Budget and  
Management (NCOSBM)*

*Agricultural Workers Digital Equity Initiative*

Partner organizations: East Carolina University (ECU), NC Department of Health and Human  
Services (NCDHHS), NC State University (NC SU)

Presenters: Tania Connaughton-Espino, NCDHHS; Dr. Joseph Lee, ECU; Dr. Catherine  
LePrevost, NCSU

*State Partnership to Promote Digital Inclusion in North Carolina*

Partner organizations: ECU, NC Department of Information Technology (NCDIT)

Presenter: Dr. Leslie Cofie, ECU

*North Carolina Agromedicine Institute*

Partner organizations: ECU, N.C. A&T State University, NC Community Health Center  
Association, NC Cooperative Extension, NC Department of Labor, NCDHHS, NCSU,

Presenter: Dr. Alyssa Spence, ECU

*Sustainable Tourism Development with a Focus on Rural NC*

Partner organizations: ECU, NC Commerce, NC Department of Natural and Cultural  
Resources, others

Presenter: Dr. Emily Yeager, ECU

*Health Insurance Outreach and Enrollment*

Partner organizations: Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC Chapel  
Hill, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

Presenters: Dr. Mark Holmes, UNC Chapel Hill; Adam Linker, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable  
Trust

*Improving Boater Safety*

Partner organizations: NCSU, NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), Wake Forest University

Presenters: Dr. Amy Braun, WRC; Carrie Ruhlman, WRC

*Division of Motor Vehicles Research Partnerships*

Partner Organizations: Bryan School of Business and Economics (UNC Greensboro), NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Piedmont Triad Partnership

Presenter: Dr. Joy Bhadury, UNC Greensboro

*A Fruitful Partnership: Supporting NC's Wine and Tourism Industry*

Partner Organizations: Bryan School of Business and Economics (UNC Greensboro), NC Wine and Grape Council (NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services)

Presenter: Dr. Erick Byrd, UNC Greensboro

**10:30-10:45 Break**

**10:45-11:45 Cross-sector Partnership Features and Q&A Part 2**

Government-research & government-philanthropy partnerships: lightning talks + discussion  
SECU Auditorium, Level A (Street Level)

*Community College Leadership and Research*

Partner organizations: Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research (NCSU), NC Community College System Office

Presenter: Dr. Holley Nichols, NCSU

*Developing Research and Evidence to Inform Agency Decision Making*

Partner organizations: NC Department of Adult Correction (NCDAC), NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (NC OSP)

Presenter: Zach McLawhorn, NCDAC

*Vocational Rehabilitation Efforts Across NC*

Partner organizations: NCDHHS

Presenter: Kenny Gibbs, NCDHHS

*Wastewater (SARS-CoV-2) Surveillance at N.C. A&T State University 2022-2023*

Partner organizations: N.C. A&T State University, NC Collaboratory, NC OSP

Presenter: Mehdi Lamssali, N.C. A&T State University

*Cross-sector Collaboration to Address Child Care Challenges*

Partnering organizations: Invest Early NC, NC Commerce

Presenters: Samantha Cole, NC Commerce; Emily Roach, NC Commerce; Cyndi Soter O'Neil, Invest Early NC

*Project RESTART: Developing an Evidence-based Domestic Violence Intervention Program Model*

Partner Organizations: NC Department of Administration (NCDOA), UNC Chapel Hill

Presenters: Danielle Carman, NCDOA; Dr. Beth Moracco, UNC Chapel Hill

*Resilient Cyber Security*

Partner Organizations: Fayetteville State University (FSU), Institute for Transportation Research and Education (NCSU), NCDOT

Presenter: Dr. Sambit Bhattacharya, FSU

**11:45-12:00 Partnership Features - Wrap Up**  
SECU Auditorium, Level A (Street Level)

*Meka Sales, Director of Special Initiatives, The Duke Endowment*  
*Eliza Edwards, Deputy Director, NC OSP*

**12:00-1:00 Lunch**

**1:00-2:15 Breakout Sessions Part 1** (meeting room listed below each session title)

**1. Agency Research and Evaluation Capacity and Expertise: Examples from NC State Government**

SECU Distance Learning Center, Level C (Park Level)  
Meihui Bodane, NC Commerce  
Dr. Curtis Bradley, NCDOT  
Tim Griffith (facilitator), NC OSP  
McKinley Wooten, NC Department of Revenue  
Rachel Wright-Junio, NC Department of Public Instruction

**2. What Philanthropy Wants Working in Partnership with State Agencies**

Studio 1, Level A (Street Level)  
Whitney Davis, Foundation for a Healthy High Point  
Juli Kim (facilitator), NC OSP  
Adam Linker, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust  
Ted Lord, Golden LEAF Foundation  
Meka Sales, The Duke Endowment

**3. The NC Office of Strategic Partnerships and the North Carolina Collaboratory: Partnerships in Action**

Studio 2, Level A (Street Level)  
Dr. Greer Arthur (facilitator), NC Collaboratory  
Dr. Ganesh Bora, Fayetteville State University  
Dr. Dongyang (Sunny) Deng, N.C. A&T State University  
Eliza Edwards (facilitator), NC OSP  
Rachylle Hart, UNC Wilmington/NC PFAS Testing Network  
Dr. Peter Kuhns, NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS)

**2:15-2:30 Break**

**2:30-3:45 Breakout Sessions Part 2** (meeting room listed below each session title)

**4. State Agencies Share Opportunities for Research and Philanthropy Partnership**

Studio 1, Level A (Street Level)  
Carrie Hollis (facilitator), NCOsBM  
LaQuana Palmer, NCDHHS  
Caroline Valand, NCDPS

**5. Researchers Share Ideas for Responding to State Government Priorities**

SECU Distance Learning Center, Level C (Park Level)  
Dr. Nick Carnes, Duke University  
Dr. Julie Edmunds, UNC Greensboro  
Dr. Jennifer Gerz-Escandon, University of North Carolina System Office  
Dr. Oliver M. Thomas (facilitator), N.C. A&T State University

**6. From Part-time Intern to Career: Opportunities for Students**

Studio 2, Level A (Street Level)  
Eliza Edwards (facilitator), NC OSP  
Kiya Edwards, NCDIT  
Olu Rouse, N.C. A&T State University and OSP  
Candace Settle, NCDEQ  
Dr. Neva Specht, Appalachian State University

**3:45-4:00 Break**

**4:00-5:00 Networking and Tours of the NC Museum of Art**

**(Guided tours available at 4:00 and 4:30pm; limited capacity. Meet in the Education Gallery)**



*OSP website*