



**Enclosed are the following materials and resources shared with participants at the 2024 NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Government Research Partnerships Learning Forum.**

- 1 2024 Learning Forum Agenda**
- 2 NC Office of Strategic Partnerships overview**
- 3 OSP Evidence Advisor role overview**
- 4 OSP Philanthropy Liaison role overview**
- 5 List of OSP Monthly Connects**

**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*

# North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships



To learn more, visit [OSP's website](#) or email [partnerships@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:partnerships@osbm.nc.gov)

## WHAT DOES OSP DO AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state government and North Carolina's research and philanthropic sectors.

OSP works with state government and non-governmental partners on priority issues, develops and convenes networks of public sector and research experts, and provides learning and engagement opportunities. These efforts help to deepen connections between North Carolina state government and external research experts and to increase state government's internal capacity to generate and use evidence to improve policy and programmatic functions.

## PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDE...



### State agencies

OSP works with state agencies across a wide range of issues, priorities, and types of engagement including short- and long-term; funded and pro bono; and with faculty, researchers, and students.

[Learn more here.](#)



### Researchers

OSP leverages North Carolina's deep research resources through partnerships with universities, colleges, and other sources of expertise that generate and use evidence to inform government decision making.

[Learn more here.](#)



### Philanthropy

OSP works with philanthropy and state government to educate each sector about the other, connect and foster relationships and partnerships, and collaborate on projects of shared interest.

[Learn more here.](#)

## HOW DO PARTNERSHIPS WORK?

Partnerships are tailored to state agencies' needs and priorities, interest from potential partners, available resources, and other considerations. Some partnership opportunities are for short-term engagements of a few months or less; others require longer commitments. Project time frames, deadlines, funding possibilities (if needed), and deliverables are determined case by case. OSP prioritizes partnerships that are scalable, sustainable, and yield open-source knowledge and resources. OSP developed the [North Carolina Project Portal](#) to share opportunities for research partnerships with state agencies and for people to express interest in pursuing those opportunities.

## HOW CAN I CONTINUE TO LEARN ABOUT OSP'S WORK?



Stay up to date through OSP's Highlights and Monthly Connect. Highlights is a monthly communication of e-news and resources. Monthly Connect is a series of virtual sessions featuring panel discussions on topics relevant to partnerships among state government, research institutions, philanthropy, and others.

[Sign up](#) for Highlights and Monthly Connect invites. See [past Highlights](#) and all [Monthly Connect recordings](#).







“Government-research partnerships are critical and OSP's approach to helping meaningful partnerships happen has meant all the difference. State agencies, community colleges, colleges, and universities across NC, including N.C. A&T, are increasingly engaged in this work. We look forward to ongoing cross-sector collaboration.”

DR. TONYA SMITH-JACKSON, PROVOST,  
N.C. A&T STATE UNIVERSITY



“The Philanthropy Liaison position is truly one-of-a-kind, and I believe a model for other states that want to bridge philanthropy and government. Thank you for the education, knowledge sharing, relationship building, and strategic thought partnership.”

STEPHANIE KRIPA COOPER-LEWTER, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, KATE B. REYNOLDS CHARITABLE TRUST



“I've worked with OSP on behalf of two state agencies to develop, share, and launch research partnerships. These projects demonstrate the feasibility of collaboration between internal and external experts, and reinforce state government's commitment to using data and evidence to guide decisions.”

JENNIFER MUNDT, ASST. SECRETARY OF CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIPS?

Visit the [OSP website](#) or see [past Highlights](#) for a range of partnership opportunities. Explore the [NC Project Portal](#) to learn more about open, in-progress, and completed research partnerships and other collaborations with North Carolina state government and non-governmental partners. Some examples are below. (Agency partner in **bold**.)

- What can NCSOS learn from data collected from failed businesses about possible business survivorship interventions and resources that would be most likely to increase business success rates during the initial seven-year period? (**NC Department of the Secretary of State**)
- How much do NC teen court programs reduce recidivism among youth under 18? (**NC Department of Public Safety**)
- How can the NC Wildlife Resources Commission improve compliance with wildlife regulations and, in turn, public safety? (**NC Wildlife Resources Commission**)
- How can North Carolina improve voluntary compliance with tax filing and payment? (**NC Department of Revenue**)
- What are the current NCWorks Certified Career Pathways across the state and what is the impact of each pathway on training and certification achievement for participants? (**NC Department of Commerce**)
- Is there a difference in outcomes for juvenile offenders between counties where defense is provided by court-appointed counsel and counties where defense is through contract counsel or public defenders? (**NC Office of Indigent Defense Services**)

## HOW ELSE DOES OSP ADVANCE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY?

The North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships focuses on the use of research and evidence to inform policy and programmatic decisions. OSP is involved with local, state, and national efforts to build a culture of evidence and increase the use of evidence within government. [Learn more about those efforts here.](#)

OSP develops and shares resources about cross-sector partnerships and the importance of using research and data to inform decision making. For examples, see [Monthly Connects](#), [Philanthropy Liaison](#), and throughout the [OSP website](#).

NC Office of



Strategic Partnerships

## THE OSP TEAM

Leah Carpenter  
*Program Support Specialist*

Eliza Edwards  
*Deputy Director*

Tim Griffith  
*Evidence Advisor*

Lori Ko  
*Intern*

Juli Kim  
*Philanthropy Liaison*

Jenni Owen  
*Director*

Olu Rouse  
*Intern*


Ruth Wygle  
*Doctoral Associate*

OSP's Advisory Group is listed [here](#).

Questions? Email [partnerships@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:partnerships@osbm.nc.gov)

### WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE ADVISOR'S ROLE INSIDE STATE GOVERNMENT?

The North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) created the Evidence Advisor role to help state agencies generate and use evidence. This role supports OSP's core work of increasing state government's use of research and data by building internal capacity for evidence-based decision making. OSP's Evidence Advisor supports state agencies by:

-  Developing priority research questions
-  Providing research & data analysis support
-  Conducting rapid evidence reviews of policies and programs
-  Building state agency staff research and evaluation capacity

### HOW DOES THE EVIDENCE ADVISOR PARTNER WITH STATE AGENCIES, RESEARCHERS, AND PHILANTHROPY?

The Evidence Advisor provides additional research and evaluation capabilities for state agencies and philanthropies that do not have dedicated resources or staff to conduct research and synthesize evidence. The Evidence Advisor also works with external research partners to develop research projects that answer agency priority questions. The role is flexible to support state agencies in whatever way it can to help OSP's cross-sector partners generate and use evidence.



## WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE ADVISOR DO?

The Evidence Advisor works with state agencies to:

- **Support the development of agency research agendas** and identification of agency priority questions.
- **Provide research and evaluation capacity** by leading and supporting agency research and data analysis projects.
- **Conduct evidence reviews and research syntheses** assessing the quality of the available evidence on the effectiveness of one or more related programs or interventions, with a goal of determining which interventions have demonstrated effectiveness to inform policy and budgetary decisions.
- **Build state agency research and evaluation capacity** to generate and use evidence through in-person and virtual training.

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

The [About Evidence webpage](#) includes resources for government research partnerships and evidence use in government, information about OSP's Government-Research Partnerships Learning Forums, and links to relevant efforts across state government.

Examples of existing research partnerships are also listed on the [NC Project Portal](#), created to share opportunities for partnering with state agencies in their research needs and for people to express interest in pursuing those opportunities.

For more information on how OSP's Evidence Advisor can support your research needs, email [timothy.griffith@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:timothy.griffith@osbm.nc.gov).



*“Working with the OSP staff and hearing from a wide variety of our staff about the questions they want answers to, and they feel will help them do their jobs better, has been incredibly informative. The benefits of this process to the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (NCDAC) and ultimately the general public are unlimited.”*

Pamela Walker, Deputy Secretary of NCDAC Strategy, Innovation, and Analysis

The North Carolina [Office of Strategic Partnerships \(OSP\)](#) develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state government and North Carolina's research and philanthropic sectors.

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[Partnership Opportunities](#)



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[Highlights E-News](#)

# Philanthropy Liaison

NC OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



## WHAT DOES THE PHILANTHROPY LIAISON DO?

The Philanthropy Liaison helps build, strengthen, and institutionalize relationships between North Carolina state government and the philanthropic sector.

The Liaison helps state government and philanthropy identify potential opportunities to leverage resources (including, but not limited to, expertise, relationships, and capital) and broker strategic partnerships for greater impact. The Philanthropy Liaison is not a fundraiser for the state. The position focuses on facilitating connections between state government and philanthropy, convening partners across the two sectors, and strategizing on cross-sector collaboration opportunities.

The Liaison works with philanthropy and state government to...



**Educate** each sector about each other



**Connect** and foster partnerships



**Collaborate** on projects of shared interest



*“OSP is a model for developing and implementing cross-sector partnerships for improved policy and program decisions....The more we work together, the more efficient and effective we will be in achieving our shared goal of improving the lives of all North Carolinians”*

*- Rhett Mabry, President, The Duke Endowment*

*“The work of OSP to help funders identify opportunities to leverage significant federal resources coming to North Carolina has been extremely helpful. We appreciate OSP leading these discussions and inviting us to participate.”*

*- Ted Lord, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Golden LEAF Foundation*

## HOW DO PHILANTHROPY AND STATE GOVERNMENT PARTNER?

State government and philanthropy partnerships take different forms, including:

- Learning from one another and exchanging ideas on issues and projects of shared interest.
- Collaborating to leverage resources and create relationships that foster long-term impact.
- Coordinating support on projects that test or facilitate innovative ideas and approaches.



*The Philanthropy Liaison position is truly a one-of-a-kind and a model for other states who want to bridge philanthropy and government. Thank you for the knowledge sharing, relationship building and strategic thought partnership opportunities offered to foundations across North Carolina.”*

*- Dr. Stephanie Cooper-Lewter, Executive Vice President, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust*



*OSP and the Philanthropy Liaison have been tremendously helpful in raising awareness that government can indeed benefit from philanthropy. I think there’s a misconception that government agencies have enough support and get everything funded by the General Assembly. Having Monthly Connects and other opportunities to hear from each other has not only strengthened awareness for cross-sector partnerships but also relationships between agencies and funders.”*

*- Kimberly Kandros, Manager of Development and Special Projects, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources*

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

If you’re interested in exploring state government-philanthropy partnerships:



For more about government-philanthropic partnerships, email Juli Kim at [juli.kim@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:juli.kim@osbm.nc.gov).



[Click here](#) to visit the Philanthropy Liaison page on the OSP website, which includes descriptions of webinar and print resources to support philanthropic engagement with the state government and research sectors.

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[Partnership Opportunities](#)



[About Evidence](#)



[Philanthropy Liaison](#)



[Monthly Connect Sessions](#)



[Highlights E-News](#)

The [Monthly Connect](#) is a series of virtual panel discussions on topics relevant to partnerships among state government, universities/colleges and other research institutions, philanthropy, and others. Monthly Connects are open to anyone interested in attending. **Below is a list of the 40+ Monthly Connect sessions that OSP has organized and facilitated since launching the series in 2019.** Click [HERE](#) to access resources and recordings.

Partnership Perspectives from Government, Research, and Philanthropy: Reflections and Opportunities (*March 2024*)

Opportunities from Colleges and Universities for Students to Assist State Agencies (*February 2024*)

Members of the North Carolina Cabinet and Council of State Reflect Back and Look Forward (*January 2024*)

Increasing the Use of Evidence in State Government: Perspectives from Government, Research, and Philanthropy (*December 2023*)

Where are the Workers? The Challenge of Filling Government Positions and What to Do About it (*October 2023*)

North Carolina State Budget: Who, What, Where, When, Why (*September 2023*)

State Government and Philanthropy Partnerships: Learning from three impactful collaborations (*August 2023*)

The Roles and Contributions of State Government Task Forces, Advisory Groups, and Similar Entities (*July 2023*)

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources: From (A)rts Council to (Z)oo (*June 2023*)

Federal Funds for NC: Sources, Uses, and Opportunities for Collaboration (*May 2023*)

Catalyzing Student Involvement in State Government (*March 2023*)

All Things NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (*February 2023*)

North Carolina Cabinet and Council of State Leaders – Reflecting Back and Looking Forward (*January 2023*)

North Carolina Evaluation Fund Projects (*November 2022*)

North Carolina County Profile Data: Promises and Pitfalls for Collaboration (*October 2022*)

The Role of Intergovernmental Affairs in Increasing and Improving Cross-Sector Collaboration (*September 2022*)

Increasing and Enhancing Data Access, Sharing, and use for Research Collaboration (*August 2022*)

North Carolina's FY 2022-23 Budget: What's New and What Are the Impacts? (*July 2022*)

Communicating Research and Policy: Learning from Experts at Government and University Organizations (*June 2022*)

State Agency Strategic Plans and Their Relevance Across Sectors (*April 2022*)

Engaging Students in Government: From Part-Time Intern to Full-Time Career (*March 2022*)

The North Carolina Project Portal: A Tool for Developing and Launching Partnerships with Government *(February 2022)*

Using Randomized Controlled Trials in North Carolina to Build Evidence for Effective Policy and Practice *(January 2022)*

North Carolina's Budget: The Process and What's Inside *(December 2021)*

Building Equity into Partnerships from the Start *(October 2021)*

The Evidence Act and Agency Learning Agendas: What They Are, Why They Matter, and How to get Involved *(September 2021)*

The Many Roles of Philanthropy in Government-Philanthropy Partnerships *(August 2021)*

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Information and Resources *(July 2021)*

Maximizing University-Government Talent Partnerships *(June 2021)*

Understanding the American Rescue Plan *(May 2021)*

North Carolina Boards and Commissions: What they are and how to get involved *(March 2021)*

Government-Research Partnerships and COVID-19 *(February 2021)*

NC Government Data Analytics Center *(January 2021)*

Research Partnerships Underway and Emerging *(October 2020)*

NC Nonprofit Organizations and the Impact of COVID-19 *(September 2020)*

Hometown Strong: Partnerships in Action for Rural NC *(July 2020)*

COVID-19 Response: Government-University-Student Partnerships *(June 2020)*

Established Government-Research Partnerships *(May 2020)*

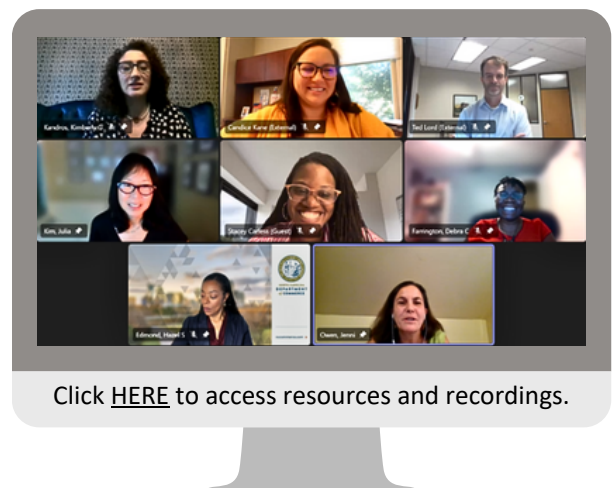
Strengthening the State Government Talent Pipeline *(March 2020)*

Identifying Expertise at Colleges and Universities *(February 2020)*

Developing and Sustaining Government-Research Partnerships *(January 2020)*

Philanthropy 101 *(November 2019)*

State Agency Research Efforts *(October 2019)*



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