

**NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect:
NC Office of Strategic Partnerships: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward**
Relevant Resources

This is a follow-up to the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (OSP) December 2024 Monthly Connect: *NC Office of Strategic Partnerships: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward* ([recording](#)).

OSP regularly shares information and resources after the Monthly Connect sessions. Typically, panelists or participants shared the information and resources in the virtual “chat.” This is not intended to be a comprehensive list. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

Speakers were:

Governor Roy Cooper, State of North Carolina

Eliza Edwards, Deputy Director, OSP

Tim Griffith, Evidence Advisor, OSP

Charlotte Hudson, Director, Lenfest Ocean Program, The Pew Charitable Trusts; Member, OSP Advisory Group

Juli Kim, Philanthropy Liaison, OSP

Jennifer Mundt, Assistant Secretary of Clean Energy Economic Development, NC Department of Commerce; Co-Chair, OSP Advisory Group

Jenni Owen, Director, OSP

Dr. Oliver M. Thomas, Associate Vice Chancellor of External Affairs, N.C. A&T State University; Co-Chair, OSP Advisory Group

Interactive session takeaways

In addition to the panel discussion, this Monthly Connect included an interactive opportunity. Attendees used a real-time virtual tool to share which sector they work in, their geographic location, insights about the importance and impact of government-research and government-philanthropy partnerships, and topic ideas for future sessions that bring together partners from across sectors. Some of the high-level takeaways:

- Many respondents represented government, universities, and colleges, with others joining from philanthropies, non-profits, and other organizations focused on policy and research.
- Participants were located across NC, from far east to far west (see map below) with some people joining from outside North Carolina.



- More than three quarters of respondents have attended or regularly attend Monthly Connects, almost half use OSP’s Highlights and other resources, and many have been involved with an OSP-

facilitated government-research or government-philanthropy partnership. For several people, this Monthly Connect was their first engagement with OSP.

- When asked about the benefits of cross-sector partnerships, common themes were: making evidence-based decisions, opportunities for mutual learning, sharing and leveraging each other's resources, networking, and diversity of perspectives.
- When asked about one wish they had related to the continued impact and growth of cross-sector partnerships, common themes were: sustainability, increased opportunities for engagement (particularly for rural populations), collaboration/connection vs. competition, and additional investment of funds for partnerships.

Resources

Descriptions are in alphabetical order and paraphrased from active links as of December 10, 2024. Links are organized by agency/organization.

NC Department of Commerce ([NC Commerce](#))

NC Commerce connects businesses with the site locations, workforce, and infrastructure they need to succeed in one of the nation's top states for business. The Department also connects local communities with the grants and funding they need to attract new business and ensure future prosperity; administers the state's economic incentives program; and publishes data, statistics, information and reports for those interested in the state's economy.

NC Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) - Higher Education to NC Government Careers ([Ed2NC](#))

A collaborative effort between OSHR and OSP, Ed2NC is committed to helping match qualified talent with competitive jobs at state government agencies. The mission of the Higher Education to NC Government (Ed2NC) Careers is to bring together leaders in state government and higher education to help create a pipeline of talent by connecting students and recent graduates with careers in state government.

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#))

OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state government and North Carolina's research and philanthropic sectors. This includes elevating state government's internal capacity to use and generate evidence in its policies and programs. As part of this work, OSP has created numerous resources about cross-sector partnerships. If you have questions about OSP or want to connect, email partnerships@osbm.nc.gov.

- Learn more about OSP's [Accomplishments and Impact](#).
- [Evidence Advisor](#): The Evidence Advisor role was created inside government and with philanthropic investment to increase government capacity for research and evidence use.
- [NC Project Portal](#): A tool for publicizing state agencies' research needs and opportunities to help address those needs. Launched in 2022, the Portal has shared information and opportunities about more than 50 partnership projects.
- [Philanthropy Liaison](#): The Philanthropy Liaison focuses on building, strengthening, and institutionalizing relationships between state government and the philanthropic sector in North Carolina. The Liaison helps identify and broker strategic partnerships between the two sectors to improve and enhance the well-being of North Carolinians.
- Highlights (OSP e-news and resources): The OSP [October Highlights](#) includes a non-comprehensive list of links to Helene related resources from many organizations across sectors.
- [Monthly Connect](#): OSP's series of virtual panel discussions on topics relevant to partnerships among state government, research institutions, philanthropy, and others. This was the 50th OSP Monthly Connect. To subscribe to OSP Highlights and Monthly Connect invitations, click [here](#).

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University ([N.C. A&T](#))

N.C. A&T is a public, historically black, land-grant research university in Greensboro, North Carolina. It is a constituent institution of the UNC System. Founded by the NC General Assembly on March 9, 1891, it was the second college established under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1890, as well as the first for people of color in the State of North Carolina. With an enrollment of over 14,000 students, N.C. A&T is the largest historically black college or university (HBCU) in the United States, a position it has held since 2014.

The Pew Charitable Trusts - [Lenfest Ocean Program](#)

The Lenfest Ocean Program funds research projects that address the needs of marine and coastal stakeholders and supports grantees who will engage with the people most likely to use the results. The Lenfest team works with coastal communities, ocean industries, marine management agencies, and other stakeholders to better understand their knowledge gaps and decision-making needs and then collaborates with scientific experts to design practical research projects that address those challenges.